

Hafa Adai!

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Skeletal remains found in Obyan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A cattle manager who was looking for a grazing spot for his cows was shocked to discover a set of skeletal remains in a jungle area located across the Torres farm near Obyan Beach on Monday at noon.

As this developed, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that Guam

chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola will conduct

» **Cattle manager shocked upon seeing skull, bones**

an autopsy and that the case has been classified as "recovered human remains."

In a news briefing, Deleon Guerrero said a worker at the

Torres farm discovered the skull and other skeletal remains in the jungle area about 15 feet from the shoulder of the road.

The site where the remains were found was about 300 to 400 feet from the intersection to the main entrance of Obyan Beach.

Saipan Tribune learned that it was 40-year-old Jeffrey Diaz who found the skeletal remains and called the police. Diaz

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Cousins Jeffrey and Tom Diaz point to the location where they found the human skeletal remains in the jungle area across the Torres farm near Obyan Beach on Monday at noon. An autopsy will be conducted on the remains.

White phosphorous catches fire at BSI site

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

White phosphorous caught fire on Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s property in Garapan on Monday after it was dug up during excavation work.

The Department of Public Safety removed the munitions, believed to be from World War II, from the site

yesterday afternoon.

DPS deferred to the Homeland Security and Emergency

Management when asked about the removal. HSEM confirmed that white phosphorous, or "Willie Pete"—an incendiary and toxic chemical substance used as filler in mili-

tary munitions—did indeed catch fire at the site Monday

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» **Second munitions-related event in days exposes BSI's need for UXO expert and to follow permit rules**

Casino commission orders BSI to show lease deals

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has directed Best Sunshine International, Ltd. to show the regulatory body the lease agreements it has signed with the Department of Public Lands and other entities.

The commission said the lease deals it wants to see includes the lease Best Sunshine signed for the Garapan property where it plans to build its first hotel and casino and the lease for the "temporary live training facility" at the T Galleria.

Commission executive direc-

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Delta to reduce flights this winter

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

As the Japanese market continues to go down, Delta Air Lines will further reduce its flights to Saipan this winter.

In a statement from its corporate communications office, Delta said that since six B747-400s will be retired by the end

of 2015, their overall seat capacity on the resort markets next year would be reduced from winter 2015.

Delta said they will also reduce frequencies on the flights to Honolulu and Saipan during the winter due to "continued yen devaluation and average fare decline with lower fuel

See DELTA on Page 4

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BUSINESS

Only three of seven midsize SUVs from 2015 performed well in front-end crash tests.

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Five are killed as many homes are destroyed as tornadoes hit Texas and Arkansas.

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George Miller's dystopian dream roars again in "Mad Max: Fury Road."

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Local

Eli Arago: It's in my heart to serve my *kababayans*

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

With 30 years of his life spent in the CNMI and as one of the first batch of Filipino workers to come to Saipan, Glicerio Arago now takes on a new position to lead and serve the thousands of his *kababayans* (compatriots) on the islands.

Arago, more fondly known as Eli, is now officially the Philippines' Honorary Consul to the Commonwealth after taking his oath of office before Consul General Marciano R. de Borja of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam last Friday.

His appointment to the po-

sition by Foreign Secretary Albert F. del Rosario, effective since April 8, will be a big help in dealing with the needs of Filipinos in the CNMI since the closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan in 2012.

Serving his *kababayans*

De Borja praised Arago's sense of service and his willingness to extend his service and assistance to the Filipino community by accepting the position even on a pro bono basis.

"It's in my heart to serve my *kababayans*," Arago said.

Despite the challenges of this new position, Arago said he will

do his best to serve the needs and interest of the Philippines and the Filipino community in the entire CNMI.

Duties and responsibilities

As honorary consul, Arago must extend every possible aid and assistance to distressed Filipinos within the jurisdiction of his office. He must also promote and protect the interest of the Philippines, particularly those relating to trade, investment, and tourism.

"We can help not only the Filipino community but also the Philippine government. As Honorary Consul, you represent the country, the Philip-

pine government here. We can help in promoting tourism and other business-related activity," de Borja said.

Arago is also authorized to perform notarial functions such as certifying ship papers, authenticating the signature of Philippine citizens, and authenticating the validity of the official acts of local authorities or notaries public. This will include notarization and authentication of employment contracts, and the usual affidavit and power of attorney.

He can also issue certain non-immigrant visas as honorary consul.

Arago will also handle re-



PCG-AGANA
Philippine Consul General Marciano R. de Borja administers the oath of office of Honorary Consul to the CNMI Glicerio M. Arago.

ports of births and deaths of Filipinos on the islands as well as the processing of the remains.

Ready to serve

Arago is currently senior vice president and chief finance officer of Tan Holdings Corp. His current office at JP Center, Beach Road will serve as his office for consular dealings and activities.

"The volume will dictate the

need to move to another office because there might be a lot of people coming in," Arago said.

"In the meantime, I will execute my responsibilities as honorary consul here in my current office with Tan Holdings."

Arago is a 2000 Bagong Bayani awardee, an honor conferred by the Philippine president to the Top 10 outstanding overseas Filipino workers around the world every year.



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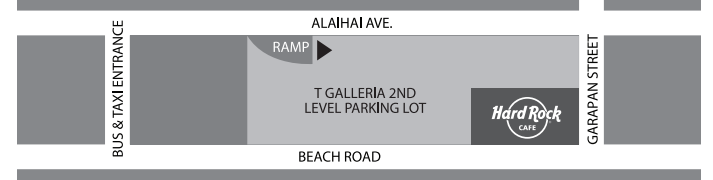
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Demapan: 902 consultation needed on land acquisition

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) remains skeptical about a U.S. congressional amendment that will require consultation between the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the CNMI governor on land acquisitions.

In a statement yesterday, Demapan said that Section 902 of the Covenant already provides the highest level of consultation between special representatives appointed by the President of the United States and the governor of the CNMI.

Demapan, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said that among the fundamental provisions embedded in the Covenant is the importance of the ownership of land to the culture and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and that the U.S. will continue to recognize and respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Commonwealth.

"The 902 consultation is the highest degree of consultation we can ask for," said Demapan. "In fact, the 902 consultation is an authority unique only to the CNMI as other states and territories do not have this benefit to avail of."

Demapan maintains that the proposed amendment in House Resolution 1735 "effectively undermines the importance and of the Covenant's protections for our self-governing status, especially when the acquisition of additional lands for military use is in conflict to the agreements made within."

"Proposing a new law for consultation harms the legitimacy of requesting for a 902, which is a more appropriate forum for the Commonwealth as it shifts the balance of the conversation to our concerns instead of the Commonwealth commenting on military plans already in place."

Demapan believes that "the

sanctity of the Covenant must be upheld and not downgraded to subject the governor to consult at the level of a department head," especially when it involves the masses of land the military intends to acquire.

Demapan said in view of this, he plans to discuss with the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos a plan to formally request President Barack Obama for a 902 consultation.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said the amendment to H.R. 1735 of this year's National Defense Authorization Act actually strengthens, and does not "undermine," the position of state and commonwealth governments."

Sablan said the U.S. De-

fense Department is already barred from any major land acquisition anywhere in the United States without first getting specific approval by Congress and the President, enacted in law.

But with the provision, the military may soon face another hurdle, as it will require the Secretary of Defense to consult with the governor of the state or commonwealth where the land is located to consider all the options for locating military installations

and activities before going to Congress for permission.

"Let me be very clear: The proposed consultation requirement in this year's Defense Authorization adds to existing law. Nothing is revoked. U.S. law still requires that Congress and the President enact a law before there can be any major land acquisition."

In addition, Covenant Section 806(b) also specifies that the U.S. will acquire no interest in real property in the

Northern Mariana Islands unless authorized by Congress and unless Congress also appropriates funds for the acquisition, Sablan pointed out. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

Woman allegedly beat up BF, attacked cop on Mother's Day

A woman allegedly got drunk during a Mother's Day brunch celebration and slapped and scratched her boyfriend, then punched a police officer at their house in Chalan Kanoa.

Jeanie Dison, 26, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and child neglect.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed Dison to post a \$100 cash bail and \$900 in unsecured bond.

Police detective Vincent A. Igisaiar stated in his report that police officer Bradford John C. Peter responded Sunday at 3:04pm to a house in Chalan Kanoa District IV, where a caller reported a domestic dispute.

Igisaiar said that when Peter arrived at the scene, he met with Dison, who yelled at him and punched him on the chest.

Peter also met with the boyfriend, who had red marks on his face and chest. The man told the officer that Dison slapped and scratched him.

The boyfriend, Dison and their son had just come from a Mother's Day brunch at a hotel when Dison, who had drank wine at the brunch, allegedly began yelling at her boyfriend. He tried to calm her down because their child was with them but Dison allegedly refused to listen, then slapped, punched, and scratched him. A police officer then arrived but she also refused to listen to the officer. (Ferdie de la Torre)

2 harbor projects get \$1.4M funding

Harbor improvement projects on Rota and Tinian will receive funding of \$1.4 million—or \$700,000 each—for fiscal year 2016.

"The House approved my request for \$1.4 million for Rota and Tinian harbor improvements in the FY16 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill we passed on May 1," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

According to Sablan, this is the first year of direct funding for the two projects, which will eventually cost about \$3 million each.

"On Rota, the Army Corps of Engineers will determine what changes need to be made to the harbor so that ships can get in no matter what the weather condition. This has been a recurring problem for Rota that has at times left the community short of food and other necessities,"

Sablan said.

On Tinian, the Army Corps will prepare designs for upgrading the World War II-era breakwater.

"Both projects require a match from the Commonwealth government. There has been a \$200,000 waiver of that local match since 1987, but I was able to increase the waiver last year in Public Law 113-121, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, immediately saving Commonwealth taxpayers \$510,000 on this stage of the two harbor projects," Sablan said.

In the same appropriation bill, the House also agreed to keep funding at current levels for the State Energy Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program, from which the Commonwealth is receiving \$195,000 and \$160,000, respectively, Sablan said. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

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Tropical storm to become typhoon, may pass Marianas on Friday

Packing maximum sustained winds of 55 miles per hour, Tropical Storm Dolphin is slowly intensifying and is forecast

to become a typhoon tonight, Wednesday, and pass the CNMI and Guam on Friday.

As of 7pm yesterday, the

center of Dolphin was 230 miles north of Pohnpei or 885 miles east-southeast of Saipan and 915 miles east-southeast

of Guam, according to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam.

Dolphin's center is fore-

cast to pass south of or very close to Guam or near Rota on Friday.

NWS urged residents of Ulul in Chuuk State and residents of the Marianas to carefully monitor the progress of this storm.

Drifting west at 3 miles per hour, Dolphin's tropical storm force winds extend out 140 miles to the southeast of the center and up to 100 miles elsewhere, NWS said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

BECQ seconds call for EIS extension

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is reiterating Gov. Eloy S. Inos' call to be given more time to review documents for military training on Tinian and Pagan.

Inos has asked the U.S. military to extend from June 3 the comment period for the draft environmental impact statement for live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan. Inos has asked for a six-month extension.

Asked if he would reiterate Inos' call for more time, BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said, "Absolutely."

"We are operating as if we don't have any extension of the deadline. But we are really hoping to be granted additional time to review the EIS," BECQ Frank Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune*.

On the bureau's side, Rabauliman said they have no less than 10 people working on the draft impact statement. He said those involved are working on their different areas of expertise.

He said after a meeting in late April with the governor, the bureau formed a timeline of review.

Rabauliman said they should have technical reviews ready for the BECQ's federal consistency specialist today or the latest on Monday.

He would then collate these findings before he submits them

to Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on May 20.

The U.S. military is reportedly close on its decision the EIS extension.

Joint Region Marianas told *Saipan Tribune* that Rear Adm.

Bolivar and Marianas Forces Pacific executive director Craig Whelden would be accompanying the Deputy Commander of U.S. Pacific Command to Saipan this Thursday. They will first meet with the administration in the morning before making themselves available to media.



IT&E PROMOTION WINNER

IT&E's Social Media Promotion winner Vivian S. Dela Cruz, left, accompanied by her daughter Remy, center, happily claims her prize from IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson, right, at the IT&E Sales & Marketing office in Chalan Laolao. Dela Cruz participated in IT&E's recent Like and Share Social Media Promotion on Facebook (www.facebook.com/itecnmi) and Instagram (ite_cnmi). By simply being a follower of the IT&E page, and liking and sharing the S6 photo ad, Dela Cruz qualified for a chance to win the newly released Samsung phone. Over the weekend, all the qualifying names were compiled and Dela Cruz's name was randomly selected as the promotion's winner. "It was a perfect gift just in time for Mother's Day!" said Mickelson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DELTA

From Page 1

surcharge."

Flights to Guam and Palau remain unchanged, the airline said.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority's latest arrival numbers, March saw a 51-percent decrease in air seat supply from Japan to the CNMI.

Japan arrivals fell 34 percent to 8,808 visitors.

MVA said seasonal suspension by Asiana Airlines of its flights from Osaka to the CNMI for January to March impacted the Japan market heavily.

MVA said Delta Air Lines also flew a reduced schedule of 12 flights a week in March from Narita to Saipan. As a result, load factors on all Japan flights to the CNMI exceeded

95 percent on average for all Japan flights during the month of March, with 8,808 Japanese able to secure one of just 9,222 seats available.

In February, arrivals from Japan fell 24 percent to 8,485 visitors as a result of Asiana Airlines' suspension of Saipan services from Osaka for January to March.

According to MVA, this impacted the Japan market very

heavily, resulting in a 43.2-percent decrease in air seat supply in February.

On top of this, major Japanese travel agencies were unable to secure hotel rooms over the Lunar New Year period due to the rapid increase in Chinese arrivals.

According to MVA, they were hesitant to launch promotions during the February period given the lack of hotel rooms.

SKELETAL

From Page 1

works as a cattle manager at the farm of rancher Ernest Torres.

Diaz said he was laying the cable line in the jungle area for the cows to eat on the side of the road—which they have been doing every other week—when he saw the skull. When he looked further down, he saw the bones for the torso and the rest of the body.

He said the skull was separated from the body.

"I saw like pieces of clothing but they looked old, shredded," he said, adding that he's not sure if the clothing were for a male or female.

"I was shocked when I first saw the skull. I thought I was seeing something..." Diaz said.

He then immediately went out to the road, called his cousin

Tom Diaz, and then 911.

He said his cousin Tom was about to let the cows out from the fence at the time.

Diaz said they usually tie the cable next to the road, but on Monday he decided to tie it further into the jungle so the cows can eat more grass. The cable is electrified as a means to control the grazing range of the cows.

Diaz and his cousin said they observed that the bones still had dried skins and that the skull still had teeth. They did not see any weapon next to the remains.

The cousins noted that there are many stray dogs in the area.

Commissioner Deleon Guerrero said every time an incident of this kind occurs, their first reaction is to make sure that they coordinate all activities at the crime scene.

"That's absolutely critical so that in the event that we find out that the person has been a

victim of a homicide, then they want to make sure that all of the evidence are properly collected and properly preserved," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said the next part is to make sure that they notify the chief prosecutor and the attorney general since they have full interest in ensuring that prosecution of this type of cases is successfully done in court.

The commissioner said DPS will not be releasing any additional information until they figure out how old the remains are "and so forth."

Deleon Guerrero is also asking the public for any information regarding how the body got there or for any information about the case.

He refused to comment about the clothes found at the scene, saying they don't want to speculate.

DPS acting spokesman Jason

Tarkong said it's too early to tell whether the remains belong to a child or an adult.

Commissioner Deleon Guerrero said the location of the remains was quite a distance from where the car of missing Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li was found abandoned last January. Li has never been found.

Five other persons remain missing on Saipan.

Then-10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk were last seen on May 25, 2011, near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

Japanese sisters Chinatsu Yamada, 26, and Natsuki Yamada, 33, have been missing since June 2014. Their rental car was recovered at Wing Beach in Marpi.

Traina Jack, then 19 years old, was last seen in San Antonio on Oct. 22, 2014.

CASINO

From Page 1

tor Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said the commission wants to review the leases and check if the lessors can be classified as casino service providers.

Deleon Guerrero explained that anytime Best Sunshine enters into any kind of agreement, including a lease with a landlord, the commission needs to review it, as per the commission's regulations.

But if it's just a landlord-tenant agreement, the regulators might not need to review it, he said.

However, Best Sunshine has yet to submit or show the leases.

Commissioner Martin San Nicolas stressed that anytime the casino licensee conducts a transaction involving money, the commission needs to know about it.

"We are just doing our job and making sure that funds are not going through different channels," San Nicolas said.

A visibly irate San Nicolas said Best Sunshine cannot just insert confidentiality clauses on agreements that the licensee signs and that procedures need to be followed with the regulator—in this case the casino commission.

Deleon Guerrero echoed the same sentiment, saying that Best Sunshine cannot just tell regulators that an agreement is "confidential."

The casino commission held a public meeting on Capital Hill last Tuesday to discuss updates on Best Sunshine and possible changes to the casino regulations.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from a Best Sunshine representative at the meeting but he declined to respond to queries.

WHITE

From Page 1

around lunchtime.

The site was evacuated for the second time in several days. A World War II sea mine was discovered and removed late last week.

Division of Environmental Quality site remediation and assessment manager Ray Masga, under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, told *Saipan Tribune* that DPS brought the white phosphorous off-site to an area in Marpi yesterday.

Just two weeks ago, the bureau was informed that an archaeologist doing work on the site nearly passed out due to noxious gas detected in the area.

The backhoe operator in the area, according to BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman, confirmed this event.

Rabauliman said yesterday that the bureau's findings in the area were inconclusive. Because of this, the company was asked to leave the excavated area alone while the bureau continued their investigation.

Unfortunately, he said, after the World War II sea mine was removed last week, excavators went back to the pile that the bureau told them not to operate on. "They further excavated the pile and it started emitting smoke and then it caught fire," Rabauliman said.

BECQ met with Best Sunshine representatives and the archaeological contractors yesterday morning.

"Because of all of these activities and the risk to human lives, I felt we needed to call ev-

erybody to the table and inform them we take the permit conditions seriously," he said.

Rabauliman said that Best Sunshine had informed DPS of the sea mine but not the bureau as required by their permit.

"We wanted to make sure there was safety first. We informed the permittee to look into hiring a UXO [unexploded ordnance] expert to be on site during these excavations. And before they proceed with any activity, they perhaps, need to run a metal detector on the remaining areas they haven't excavated yet," he said.

Masga said they anticipate the potential for other munitions discoveries.

He said an excavator reportedly broke off the case of this munitions. This exposed the white phosphorus to the air before it smoked and flared.

The smoke can create irritations and burn, said Rabauliman and Masga.

"Right now, we are trying to work with the project site to make sure they follow through with the permit. To make sure in situations like this, public health is priority," Masga said.

In February, a spent shell was found on Managaha. The bureau required that the contracting company have a UXO expert on site before they proceed. Similarly, they now expect Best Sunshine to do the same.

Rabauliman called this the "prudent and responsible" thing to do.

Masga said an expert on site to determine if a UXO is active or inactive is important.

According to Rabauliman, BSI has agreed to have this expert.

Mayor's Office still paying \$50K owed from 2008

In order to fulfill requirements for its annual budget appropriations, the Saipan Mayor's Office needs to pay off its outstanding debt from 2008 totaling more than \$50,000.

Mayor David Apatang earlier disclosed that the Mayor's Office is still paying over \$50,000 in past arrears that former mayor Juan B. Tudela and his office incurred after they failed to pay a company for providing services in connection with the 2008

Liberation Day festivities.

Apatang told lawmakers he needs his \$3.06-million proposed budget in order for his office to meet full requirements.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) earlier asked Apatang if a portion of the fiscal year budget for 2015 was used to pay prior debts, to which Apatang and his staff said yes.

If the Mayor's Office fails to settle this debt, it will then continue to accrue a post-judgment

interest rate of 9 percent each year, Apatang said.

Court records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that Kwun Kee Co. Ltd. had sued Office of the Mayor of Saipan for breach of contract after it failed to pay for the construction of 30 booths used during the 2008 Liberation Day festivities.

The company was supposed to be paid \$650 per booth, for a total of \$19,500. It also included a 20-to 30-minute fireworks dis-

play totaling \$24,983. However, the fireworks toppled over and caused chaos and injury during the festivities.

It totaled \$44,483, prior to the judgment against the Mayor's Office in 2010. Tudela paid some \$12,000 of the judgment.

Seeking clarification, Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said the judgment was based on Kwun Kee's involvement after taking legal action against the Mayor's Office in 2008.

In 2010, the judgment entered was \$32,583, after \$12,000

some was paid.

Hofschneider said that Kwun Kee now seeks full payment of the outstanding balance under the judgment, which includes post-judgment interest at the rate of 9 percent per annum on the principal amount of \$31,583 that is due.

"Since post-judgment interest rate from 2010 accumulated until 2015, it increased the \$32,000 to \$50,000," he said.

"Former mayor Marian Tudela and Mayor Apatang paid close to \$12,000 for the interests rates only; the principal amount

is still there," he added.

During the budget hearing, Apatang said so far they have paid a total of \$12,500 up-to-date for the judgment fee.

"Instead of paying that 9 percent additional interest, we can pay that off with our requested budget. It will save us a lot of money and we have discussed this with the individual, and he is willing to accept the principal amount of some \$32,000 so it could be settled and we would not be paying it again," Apatang said. *(Jayson Camacho)*

Spike seen in calls for emergency services

Calls for emergency medical services in the Commonwealth have been growing steadily in the last three years.

According to a proclamation signed Monday by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the 2012 to 2013 statistics from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

showed "a drastic 10-percent increase in EMS calls."

Last year, a total of 4,925 EMS-related calls were received by the department varying from the common cold and fever to life-threatening illnesses as well as cardiac arrest.

In line with this, May 17 to 23 was proclaimed as Emergency

Medical Services Week.

EMSC for children

A special medical services day for children was also proclaimed. It designates May 20 as this year's Emergency Medical Services for Children.

The proclamation acknowledged "the needs of children are different than the needs of adults in medical emergencies."

In the last five years, 2,780 calls involving children were responded to by DFEMS.

Both proclamations want to "recognize the value, sacrifice and the accomplishments of emergency medical services."

Programs

As part of this, DFEMS has lined up a number of activities as a way to disseminate knowl-

edge in emergency response.

One of the programs they will be staging this month is the free cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, classes, considering that 245 of the calls they received last year were complaints of chest pain associated with heart attack and the likes. Over the past five years, EMS teams have also responded to 215 cardiac arrest emergencies

where the responders had to administer lifesaving skills.

There will also be free vital checks at the Thursday Street Market and tie-ups with various agencies such as the Man'amko Center and Salvation Army.

The department will also have a fun day where children and families can enjoy games as well as the firefighters' cook-off. *(Frauline S. Villanueva)*

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2013 Nissan Rogue SV 2WD STOCK #DW020040 Mileage: 31K \$19,995	2013 Nissan Rogue Select 2WD STOCK #DW026985 \$20,995	2013 Kia Sportage EX 2WD STOCK #D7485868 Mileage: 24K \$20,995
2013 Kia Sportage EX 2WD STOCK #D7429933 \$21,995	2011 Ford Ranger Sport 4WD STOCK #BPA62697 Mileage: 15K \$21,995	2014 Kia Sportage LX 2WD STOCK #E7622818 Mileage: 4K \$21,995
2010 Nissan Maxima SV Sport STOCK #AC802050 Mileage: 60K \$23,995	2013 Ford Taurus SEL STOCK #DG151392 Mileage: 16K \$27,995	2013 Nissan Pathfinder SV 4WD STOCK #DC600972 Mileage: 33K \$29,995

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 RENDEZVOUS: 13 MAY 2015, FROM 6PM - 9PM

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The dinner buffet will also offer other Mexican favorites such as adobada pork, carne asada, Certified Angus Beef® flank steak, assorted house-made salsas and much more.

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- The human papillomavirus (HPV) test looks for the virus that causes these cell changes.

The only cancer the Pap test screens for is cervical.



HPV is the main cause of cervical cancer.



- HPV is a very common virus, passed from one person to another during sex.
- Most people get it, but it usually goes away on its own.
- If HPV doesn't go away, it can cause cancer.

Most women don't need a Pap test every year!
Have your 1st Pap test when you're

21

If your test results are normal, you can wait **3** years for your next Pap test.



HPV tests aren't recommended for screening women under 30.



When you turn **30** you have a choice:

If your test results are normal, get a Pap test every **3** years.

OR

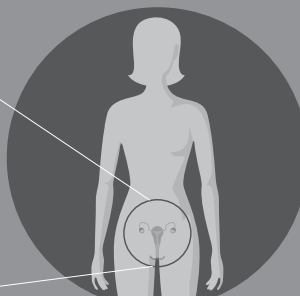
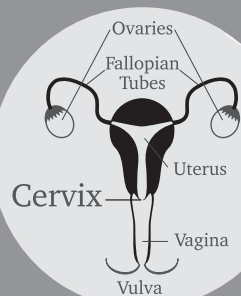
Get both a Pap test and an HPV test every **5** years.

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National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control



More information about cervical cancer: www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/

This Ad was brought to you by the CHCC Comprehensive Cancer Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non Communicable Disease Bureau through 100% federal funding from the Center for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC).

4 WWII veterans to visit this Sat.

Four World War II veterans, together with 25 college students, will be arriving in the Commonwealth this Friday, according to Pacific Development, Inc. director Gordon Marciano.

He said the group will be touring Saipan on Saturday and will be heading to Tinian on May 17 and 18.

Upon their arrival they will be staying at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan on the evening of May 15.

"The group will be on tour on Saipan on Saturday throughout the day and in the evening we have arranged for them to be at the Taste of Marianas," Marciano said.

"Pete Callaghan [Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan representative] is preparing the medals and certificates that we will be presenting [to them] on Tinian on the evening of May 17th, unless the Marianas Visitors Authority permits [that we] do it at the Taste of the Marianas," he said.

Marciano said there were five WWII veterans who were supposed to visit but one won't be able to make it. He has no information on who won't be coming. The five veterans are:

■ U.S. Marine Corps' Patrick Thornburgh, who participated in the liberation of Saipan and Tinian.

■ Mason Fitch, 20th Air Force, 313th Wing, 504th Bomb Group, 398th Squadron, who arrived in the CNMI on Jan. 1, 1945, and served as a radio operator for bombing missions to Japan.

■ Gonzalo Garza, 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions on Saipan and Tinian.

■ George Gross, U.S. Navy Seabees, who built the runways on Tinian used for the bombing missions (and)

■ Leonard Porter, U.S. Army Air Corps on Guam and Saipan who flew 40 combat mission against Japanese-held islands in B24's.

The 25 students that will

be arriving with the veterans are from the College of the Ozarks in Missouri and are under a program called the Patriotic Program, where they invite World War II veterans to go back to where they fought during the war, and match them up with a student from the college who, in some cases, had a family member in the same battle.

The students have been all over the world, including Europe, the Pacific, and Asia.

"Valour Tours has handled their Pacific and Asia tours for the past four years to the Solomon Islands, Philippines, and China. They are winding up their WWII patriotic programs as the veterans are getting too old to travel, and are moving on to Vietnam War veterans," Marciano said.

This will be the first time for the CNMI to host a group of college students accompanying the World War II veterans. (*Jayson Camacho*)

CSC prioritizes funding for trainings, legal counsel

The CNMI Civil Service Commission will prioritize trainings and hiring a legal counsel if its proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 is approved.

Officials, headed by Commissioner Herman "HR" Deleon Guerrero, faced members of the House Committee on Ways and Means during a budget hearing on Tuesday on Capital Hill.

The commission is proposing

an estimated \$713,000 for fiscal year 2016, which is slightly lower than the government's proposed \$752,000.

The trainings will get the bulk of the budget, as well as hiring of a legal counsel and executive assistant, Guerrero said.

In October, the commission initiated an information program to ensure that employees are aware of their rights

and obligations as government employees. It issued a series of bulletins covering a range of topics related to the Civil Service personnel regulations and other employment issues. To date, the commission has issued three bulletins on political coercion, Public Service System Rules & Regulations, and performance evaluations. (*Joel D. Pinaroc*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-015, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 27, 2015** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 11, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Officer

Ironwood Saipan holds topping out ceremony

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Affordable housing developer

Ironwood did a topping out ceremony yesterday at its Saipan project on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Topping out is an old Scandinavian tradition. Once the construction of the topmost part of a structure is done, a tree or at least a branch is placed atop it, hence the term.

This signifies that vertical construction for the affordable housing project is done and the developer is now focusing on the exterior and interior finishes.

Aside from Ironwood officials and partners, Public Works Secretary James Ada, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director Jesse Palacios, as well as some members of the Legislature were in attendance at the ceremony.

"Our vertical structure's finished, now we're working on enclosing the building. We're starting the interior finishes, the dry wall, and the windows. Next month we'll get the building totally weather-proof," said Sean Easter, vice president for Construction Ironwood.

Since the project started, over 600,000 lbs of steel have already been installed. They also used 2,000 cubic yards of concrete and spent 250,000 man-hours of labor.

According to Easter, they are in line with their schedule and looking forward to finish by October.

The low-income housing tax credit project will open in early November.

Ironwood Saipan will feature 80 apartments within two-floor buildings. There will be 26 two-bedroom, 33 three-bedroom, and 24 four-bedroom units available for rent.

Aside from the units being affordable and available for low-income earners, the Ironwood project will also feature energy-efficient construction, which will result in up to 70 percent utility savings for residents. Also included in the project is a community center, a playground, a basketball court and several pavilions.

"Thank you Ironwood Saipan for investing in the CNMI and for being a partner for this administration and of course for the NMHC in furthering our mandate to provide for safe, decent, sanitary, and energy-efficient housing to our citizens," Palacios said.

Man, 58, allegedly beat up girl for coming home late

A 58-year-old man allegedly hit a girl with a scrub, repeatedly punched her, grabbed her hair, and made her massage his feet at his residence in Tanapag on Sunday early morning.

Patrick Norita Dowai was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, child abuse, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing on Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail and set a preliminary hearing for May 18 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Dowai.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that it was the girl's mother who

called police on Sunday at 2:45am to report the beating.

In her interview with the girl, Udui said the girl related that she and her brother had gone to the Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park on Saturday at 8pm and that Dowai scolded her when her cousin dropped her off Sunday at 2am.

Dowai allegedly threw a scrub at her, hitting her back. He then allegedly started beating her then made her massage his feet. He later continued beating her up. When her mother arrived, she told her about the incident. The report didn't indicate the girl's age.

Police responded and arrested Dowai at 3:11am that day. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Ironwood Saipan holds a topping out ceremony at its site on Middle Road, Gualo Rai yesterday, signifying the completion of its vertical construction. The developer will now focus on exterior and interior finishes as they aim to open in November this year.



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Who Should Apply?

- ☛ Families with children ages 3 and 4
- ☛ Families with children who turn 5 years old after the cut-off age for kindergarten, September 30
- ☛ Families that meet the income guidelines
- ☛ Families receiving public assistance, such as SSI
- ☛ Families with a child who has an IEP
- ☛ Foster care families
- ☛ Homeless families

How Do I Apply?

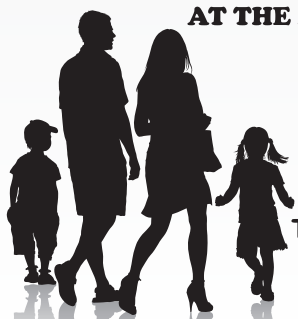
Natural parents or legal guardians need to complete and submit the Head Start application packet and required documents.

- ☛ Head Start Program Application;
- ☛ Proof of all family income stubs for the last 12 months such as, 1040 and W2, pay check stubs, statement from employer, child support, student financial aid, retirement benefits, LES;
- ☛ Child's birth certificate;
- ☛ Child's Medicaid or other medical insurance coverage;
- ☛ Documentation of participation in WIC, NAP, LIHEAP, and/or housing assistance;
- ☛ Parent(s)/guardian(s) photo ID;
- ☛ Legal documents relating to guardianship or custody;
- ☛ Copy of IEP for children with disabilities;
- ☛ SSI documentation, if applicable.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL HEAD START CENTERS AND AT THE HEAD START OFFICES IN CAPITOL HILL BUILDINGS 1256 & 1259

Head Start Centers will be closed beginning on June 10, please visit our offices or call us after that date.

The CNMI PSS Head Start Program does not provide transportation services.



PLEASE CALL 323-7446/7447 OR 322-1739 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Mom! Dad!

Ask the doctor about my emotional development, too.

When it comes to caring for children and teens, checking their social and emotional development — such as how they build relationships and respond to stress — is just as important as checking their height and weight. Talk with your child's pediatrician about promoting his or her social and emotional health. These conversations can be a source of support and information, and your doctor can work with you to address concerns about your child's emotions, fears, and behaviors. Be sure to talk about this at your next visit.

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This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H25MC06112. Community-Based Integrated Service System — Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant

Tourism industry, partners clean up Garapan

The Japan Saipan Travel Association did its semi-annual cleanup of Garapan on April 29, 2015, drawing 54 participants,

including several Japanese travel agents who were touring Saipan at the time.

JSTA was again joined by

the Marianas Visitors Authority and a number of tourism industry companies in their efforts to pick up trash from American

Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office along both roadways and the beach.

Participating local companies

were Aqua Connection, Good Care, Grandvrio Resort, H.I.S., MSC, Marianas Trekking, Nippon Travel Association, PDI,

Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pau Pau Tours, Seashore/Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, Tasi Tours/PMT, and World Resort. Off-island participants were from H.I.S., JTB World Vacations, Keikyu Travel, Odakyu Travel, Pacific Micronesian Tours, R&C Tours, Tobu Travel, and Delta Air Lines. **(MVA)**

Dandan community meeting tonight

A community meeting for Dandan village is scheduled for this evening, Wednesday, May 13, 6pm, at the Dandan Middle School cafeteria. The village meeting is being held to address ways to combat crime and safeguard our homes and community through the creation of a Neighborhood Watch Program. The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services have also been invited and will be in attendance.

For further information, contact Vince Camacho at 287-1386 or e-mail him at dvfcamacho@hotmail.com. The community meeting is being sponsored by the Offices of Representatives Roman Benavente, Angel Demapan, Joseph LeePan Guerrero, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Antonio Sablan, and Ed Propst. **(PR)**



JSTA

Fifty-four tourism industry representatives, including visiting travel agents, joined the cleanup organized by the Japan Saipan Travel Association in Garapan on April 29, 2015.

MVA, Delta host Japan travel agent tour

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines recently hosted a familiarization tour for 14 travel agents from Japan, providing participants with first-hand experiences in the Northern Mariana Islands to better sell the destination.

Participating travel agencies were H.I.S., JTB World Vacations, Keikyu Travel, Odakyu

Travel, Pacific Micronesia Tours, R & C Tours, Tobu Travel, and Kinki Nippon Tourist. A representative of Delta Air Lines also participated.

The group did inspections of several hotels: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Grandvrio Resort, Saipan World Resort,

Kanoa Resort, Century Hotel, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

A number of visitor attractions were enjoyed, including 360 Night Market, Managaha, Let's Go! UTV Mt. Tapochao tour, Sea Touch marine animal encounter, the Las Vegas-style SandCastle Saipan cocktail show, Forbidden Island, swim-

ming at Grotto, Mandi Asian Spa, an island tour, and Garapan Street Market. Dining was also experienced at Country House Restaurant and 360 Revolving Restaurant.

"Travel agents are a strong influencing factor for many Japanese travelers when it comes to choosing their destination," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "With all they've seen and experienced during their visit,

these travel agents can now sell our islands more convincingly and effectively to potential visitors. To a person, they all seemed excited to be here and said they learned a lot about the destination."

The group also took time during their tour to join the tourism industry cleanup in Garapan on April 29, 2015, in anticipation of Japan's Golden Week holiday and May Tourism Month. **(MVA)**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement and Installation of a Rotating Beacon
Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
Project No. CPA-SA-003-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new rotating beacon, climbing device and basket at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and an additional 1-year preventive maintenance services.

All requirements under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) latest edition of Advisory Circular 150/5345-12, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment. See Scope of Work (SOW) for specific details. The SOW and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project.

A site inspection will be conducted on **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** in order to assess the condition and area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Prospective proposers shall meet the Saipan Airport Manager, Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, at the beacon site at 9:00 a.m.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager at cpa.edmendiola@pticom.com.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: May 6, 2015



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

(May 13, 2015)

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) revised *Section 8 Administrative Plan for Rental Assistance Programs – Housing Choice Voucher Program*, NMHC wants to respectfully inform the general public of the following:

1. NMHC will be updating the current Applicant Waiting List for its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program beginning on **June 01, 2015**, by removing applicants:

- a. Who requests that his/her name be removed;
- b. Who fail to respond to a written request for information updating their application;
- c. Who fail to respond to a written request declaring his/her continued interest; or
- d. Who no longer meets the program's eligibility criteria.

NOTE: *The updating of the Applicant Waiting List will only apply to applicants that submitted a pre-application in March 2014.*

Written notices will be mailed out to every applicant listed on the program's waiting list. Upon receipt of a written notice, applicants are requested and **required** to contact NMHC at the following telephone numbers or email addresses listed below. Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to the following individuals:

1. **Saipan Office – Telephone Numbers: 234-6866 or 234-9447**
 - David Chargualaf, PHD Manager – email: phdmanager@nmhc.gov.net
 - Nanette Palacios, Housing Specialist - email: housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp
 - Sisi Alvarez, Housing Specialist - email: housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp
2. **Tinian Field Office – Telephone Number: 433-9213**
 - Frances Diaz, Tinian Field Office Representative – email: tiq@nmhc.gov.mp
3. **Rota Field Office – Telephone Number: 532-9410**
 - Arvin Ogo, Rota Field Office Representative – email: rop@nmhc.gov.mp

Karidat marks 35th anniversary with ‘Karidat Month’

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres recently proclaimed the month of May as Karidat Month, recognizing the non-profit’s commitment to the island community.

“Karidat Social Services assists people of all economic levels in the community, without regard to race, religion, sex, age, creed, disability or place of origin, to address problems arising

from personal or family problems, external circumstances, or intrapersonal conflicts,” the resolution partly states.

The organization is hosting a food drive as a part of its month-long activities, as promised by its new executive director, Lauri Ogumoro.

Ogumoro said she is concerned that children will not have adequate food after the school year ends. “Having a full pantry ready for when school is

out is very important,” she said. The month, themed “Giving Hope, Building Future,” is also a celebration of the work done to “serve the least of our brothers” in our community, according to Ogumoro.

“The purpose of the events is to come together as members of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to support the work of Karidat and the individuals and families we serve,” she told *Saipan Tribune*. “We hope to inspire members of

the diocese to help us fill the Karidat Food Pantry in order to serve our neighbors who are in need.”

Ogumoro also announced that the organization’s new temporary office is in the V.S.S building in Chalan Piao. While there, they will work on obtaining grants that will be used to demolish their old office and build a new one on the same site within two to three years.

“We will be working hard on achieving this goal,” she said.

4 students, mayor’s staff join home-stay program in Japan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four students and one Saipan Mayor’s Office staff are now in Japan for a home-stay program that enables CNMI students to experience Japanese culture.

The four students and Mayor’s Office executive assistant Yuki Kishimoto arrived in Itoda, Japan, last Friday. The Mayor’s Office declined to disclose the names of the four students.

The students will stay with their host families until Thursday, May 14.

Activities during the six-day program will start at 8am, with the students visiting museums, elementary schools, a zoo, factories, shopping, and bonding time with their host families.

A farewell party will be held for them on Wednesday.

As part of Mayor David M. Apatang’s and the municipality’s goal of sustaining strong ties with Japan and Korea, the student cultural exchange program remains important in promoting and sustaining a healthy link to Saipan’s biggest tourism markets.

In an earlier statement made at the Legislature for the office’s budget hearing, Apatang said that official representation is highly recommended and they need additional funds to sustain the strong ties with these two nations.

“Saipan receives students from Japan and Korea. These students visit Saipan for a period of five to seven days at a time. Their experience touring the island and time spent with host families here is the best marketing tool in exposing and promoting Saipan as a friendly tourist destination,” he said.

Sanpo-En, KSKK, Itoda, Noboribetsu, and other exchange programs visit Saipan every year.

Saipan Tribune learned that many students from Japan who continue to avail of the home-stay program have come here more than three times.

“We must continue the program by hosting students visiting from Japan and Korea in the same manner both sister cities treat students from Saipan when they visit their wonderful cities,” he said.

Apatang also recommended

funding for renting vehicles that will be used for off-island

guests upon their visit, specifically for the student exchange

program and its chaperones and teachers.

Karidat Social Services was established on May 5, 1980, and provides direct client services of emergency housing and

food assistance, safe housing, advocacy to victims of crime, counseling services, and case management.



Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-090
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 29, 2015
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) JET SKIS AND ONE (1) DUAL JET SKI TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY SECTION”

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in any bid in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Maureen Basa)
Deleon Guerrero)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
Edward Cabrera)
Deleon Guerrero)
Respondent,)

FCD-DI CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 12-0476

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 5508 CHRB as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

THOMPSON LAW OFFICE, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg.
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile No.: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

RICARDO E. ANTONIO, as Guardian Ad Litem for ALDRIC JON H. ANTONIO, a minor and ALMA I. HABOS,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

HAENG C. BAEK and DOES I-V.

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 14-0178

AMENDED
SUMMONS

TO: DEFENDANTS, HAENG C. BAEK and DOES I-V

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to appear and defend the claims presented in this Amended Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Amended Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Responsive Pleading to the Plaintiffs’ counsel whose address is at Thompson Law Office, LLC, 2nd Floor JET Building, PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Responsive Pleading.

Your Responsive Pleading to the Amended Complaint should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. It may be prepared and signed by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by electronic filing or by messenger or mail. It is not necessary to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to appear and defend in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in this Amended Complaint.

By Order of the Court
Date: December 10, 2014

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

THOMPSON LAW OFFICE, LLC
Colin M. Thompson
J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, Marianas Islands 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF

Decedent.

JESUS CRUZ UNTALAN

CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0083

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION
RULE 11 & 16 COM.R.PRO.

Date: June 30, 2015
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: David A Wiseman

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Joal David Untalan, filed a Petition in the Superior Court praying that he appointed Administrator of the Estate of Jesus Cruz Untalan, deceased to determine the heirs of the decedent and distribute any assets of decedent. The attorney of record is Colin M. Thompson, at PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is set for June 30, 2015 in courtroom of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan , at 1:30pm. All interested person should appear at this hearing. All person having claims against the estate, or against the decedent should file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Name: Reynaldo M. Mendoza
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 502528
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 287-4802

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the)
Petition for the Change)
of Name of:)
E.C.F. (2/6/02), L.D.C.F.)
(4/23/98), A.A.C.F.)
(2/22/01))
Minor Child’s Initial/)
(d.o.b.))
)
)
By:)
Reynaldo M. Mendoza)
Petitioner

FCD CN CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 15-0226

NOTICE OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 25, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Annabelle C. Plummer)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
Eric D. Plummer)
Respondent)

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 15-0016

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner, whose address is P.O. Box 506507, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

SSFM
INTERNATIONAL

ENGINEERING JOB FAIR

Engineering Opportunities in Guam for Construction Management and Quality Assurance

Join us to find out about potential engineering positions available soon in Guam.

When:
Place:

Friday, May 15, 2015, 9am thru 4pm.
SSFM CNMI, LLC Office
Chalan Pal'e Arnold St., 2nd Floor, Tun Kiku Building,
Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

General description of the positions will be made available at the job fair.
Interested applicants must be willing to relocate.

SSFM International, Inc. is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 94Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Awaiting inspiration in 2016 campaign

In 2007, Barack Obama announced his presidential candidacy before thousands of people who stood in the winter cold outside the Capitol in Springfield, Ill., Abraham Lincoln's hometown.

Love Obama or not, Obama's announcement was powerful and moving.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio launched his 2016 presidential campaign with a policy speech that set forth his vision. For that, he deserves credit.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee went to his hometown, Hope, and gave his supporters a speech around which they could rally, though his line about never thinking of using a firearm to murder someone was weird and hardly bumper sticker worthy.

They are the exception in 2016. Now, candidates are turning to high-tech gimmickry.

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, released a video that ran less than three minutes, featuring "real people" talking about their own lives and aspirations. Clinton appears late in the video with a truncated message that could easily have been crafted by Don Draper from "Mad Men" pitching canned hams.

Carly Fiorina, the anti-Clinton, appeared on a Web video watching a video of Clinton before making her own announcement. At least the one-time Hewlett Packard chief executive didn't reprise the "Demon Sheep" ad from her failed U.S. Senate campaign in 2010.

Others are trying a little too hard. Dr. Ben Carson rented a hall in Detroit, where various stage acts performed prior to his entrance, including a gospel version of an Eminem song. He wore a headset microphone, like some high-tech entrepreneur pitching a new product.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz stood in a theater-in-the-round setting at Liberty University before students whose attendance there was mandatory. He looked and sounded like Dr. Phil lecturing a studio audience.

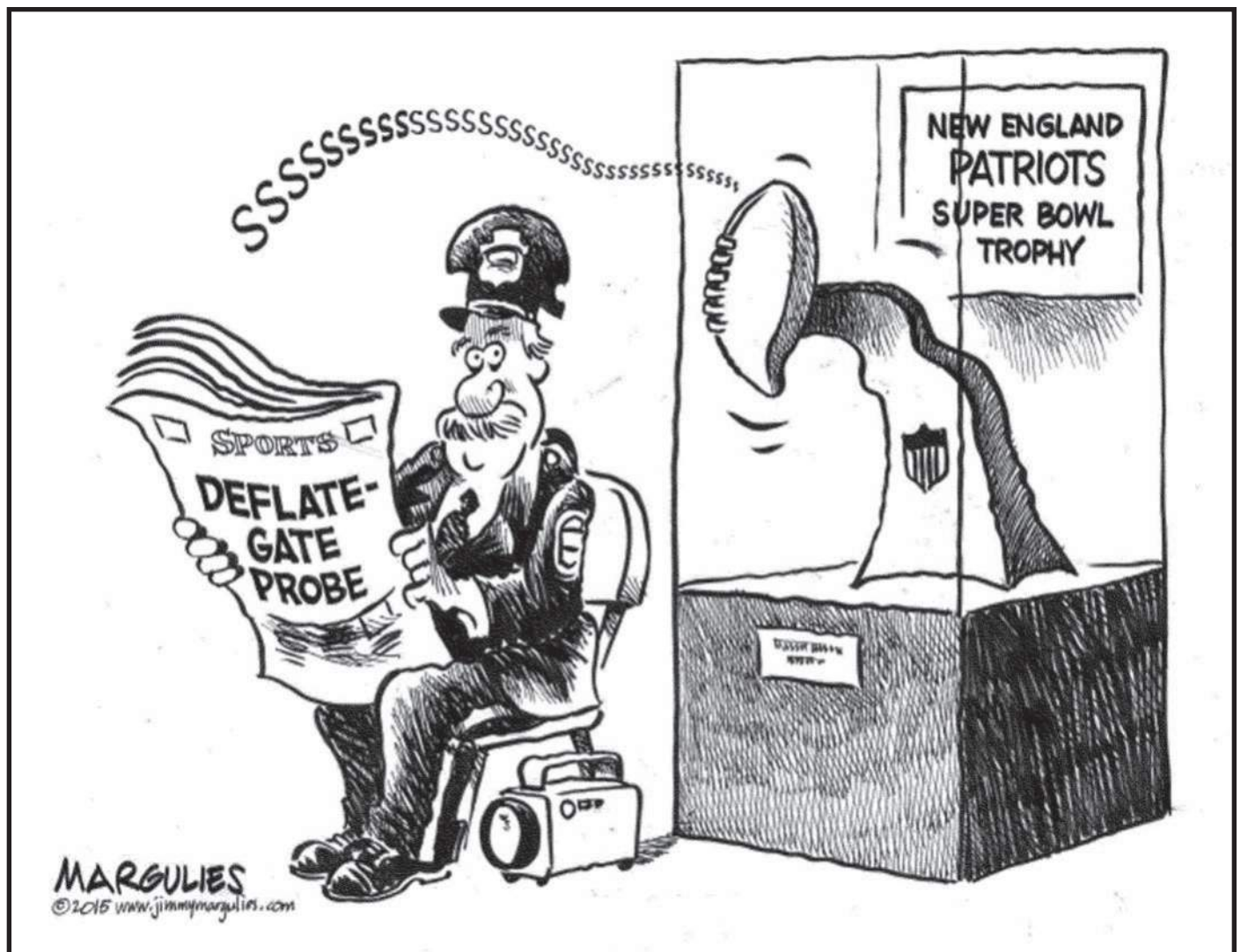
One candidate didn't try hard enough. Sen. Bernie Sanders, looking rumpled, stood before a microphone with a few people standing behind him, announced he's kind of running for president, and said he had somewhere else to be.

And so on.

Other candidates almost certainly will enter the race, including Jeb Bush, who instantly will be the presumed front-runner for the Republican nomination. Let's hope that he doesn't announce via video or tweet it in 140 characters.

We like the old-fashioned way: Stand up, give an impassioned speech that lets 'er rip, with people cheering, smiling and waving, and then jump the next plane to Iowa. We understand it's only politics. But an authentic attempt at inspiration would be appreciated.

(c) 2015 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)



The job-killing-robot myth

Are robots displacing millions of workers? Many people seem to think so. Recently, for instance, *The New York Times* ran an op-ed claiming that "the machines are getting smarter, and they're coming for more and more jobs." Last week, the *Wall Street Journal* sounded the alarm that "robots are taking over corporate finance departments." The story goes that we can look forward to an ever greater problem of unemployment as technological advancement allows machines to replace a growing percentage of the workforce.

It's a scary story. But, first of all, it's not new. Second, although robots are "coming for" some jobs, that fact does not explain the current economic situation. Robots are a distraction from very real problems.

On the first point, concerns about machines creating mass unemployment date back centuries. The term "Luddite" refers to textile workers in the early 19th century who smashed the machines that threatened to make their skills redundant. When I was young, Kurt Vonnegut's *Player Piano* was a must-read tale of a society in which machines did all the work and people were unnecessary. So we have seen this script many times before.

Turning to the evidence, if technology were rapidly displacing workers then productivity growth—the rate of increase in the value of goods and services produced in an hour of work—should be very high, because machines are more efficient. In the last decade, however, productivity growth has risen at a sluggish 1.4 percent annual rate. In the last two years it has limped along at a pace of less than 1 percent annually. By comparison, in the post-World War II "Golden Age," from 1947 to 1973, productivity grew at an annual rate of almost 3 percent.

And let's not ignore that the rapid productivity growth of the Golden Age was associated with low unemployment and strong wage growth. So even if we did see a big uptick in productivity growth, there is no reason to assume that this would be bad news for (human) workers.

The other scary robots story that won't seem to die is that even if technology isn't hurting everyone and making all humanity redundant, it is responsible for growing inequality.

The economist David Autor popularized this "hollowing out of the middle" narrative, which holds that many of the jobs that used to support a middle-class living standard, like manufacturing and clerical work, are disappearing because of technology. As a result,

By **DEAN BAKER**
Los Angeles Times

Dean Baker is the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. He is the co-author of *Getting Back to Full Employment: A Better Bargain for Working People*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



less-skilled workers are scrambling for an ever-smaller number of jobs and falling behind their better-educated peers.

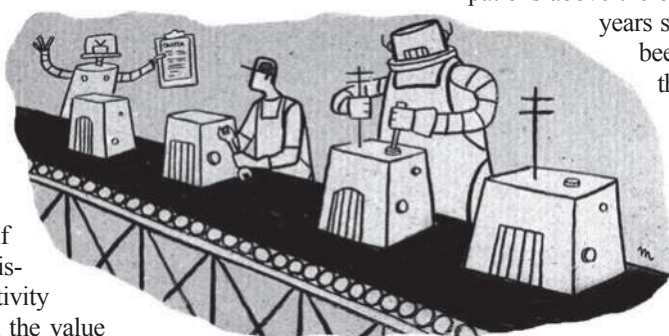
But the data don't support that theory either. If Autor's story were true, we would expect to see higher demand for high-skilled jobs relative to less-skilled jobs. That's not happening. Instead, there's been a modest decline in the relative demand for almost all occupations above the bottom 25 percent to 30 percent. In the years since 2000, most of the job growth has been in occupations at the bottom end of the wage distribution, with the share at the middle and top both declining.

Inequality is real, but it has more to do with the wages certain occupations command than the myth that machines are lowering the quantity of work that's available for the less-skilled.

Still, the robots story is important because it perpetuates another myth: that inequality is something that just happened, when in fact it's the consequence of specific policies.

If robots are the problem we could feel bad about it, and maybe look to help those who are on the losing side of the great human-and-robot war. But few would want to be Luddites standing in the path of technological progress. Opposing mechanization seems futile. On the other hand, if the rise in inequality over the last 35 years is due to government action or inaction, then we might try to bring about change. The list of policies that have led to inequality is long. It includes a trade policy designed to whack the middle class; Federal Reserve Board policy that fights inflation at the expense of jobs; a bloated financial sector that relies on government support; and a system of labor-management relations that is skewed against workers.

If we really want to address the causes of inequality we have to get over the robots are taking our jobs story, move beyond hand-wringing or Luddism, and accept the harsh reality that people, or their policies, anyway, are to blame—not technology.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Old age syndrome

The oversized indigenous short memory reminds me of a joke of old ladies who celebrate their birthdays annually. They go to the Culture Restaurant every year, together. At 50 they gather at the restaurant because the coffee is perfectly perked, at 60 because the sautéed fresh corned beef is food to die for, at 70 because the waiters wear tight pants; at 80 because they've never been there!

It seems a form of dementia is creeping dangerously among the indigenous elite—a group made up of administration officials and legislators—that try to navigate a canoe, though they've never touched a paddle.

The illness is a combination of dyslexia, hypoxia, and amnesia. Officials use culture in speeches but have offered nothing that provides edification—strengthening—of local tradition. Have they ever listened to their towering empty spouts?

For over three decades, the indigenous elite simply failed to create economic opportunities to help households find meaningful employment to earn and bring home the bacon with dignity.

Did we do anything to prevent the loss of a \$2.1-billion apparel industry, the exodus of major Nippon investments, e.g., JAL, Nikko Hotel, Ric Tours, and others? Didn't we simply sleepwalk it, convinced it's just another passing cotton ball? Wasn't the investment loss about \$5 billion to \$7 billion?

This failure was eased and hidden with NAP program in place and SNAP in the near-term. The millions of dollars that come for either program wasn't money generated here through taxes. It's another's creation paid for dutifully by U.S. taxpayers.

Our role is limited to social workers redistributing the largess. That it's free denies recipients the opportunity to understand the value and meaning of money because they've never earned it. The elite did nothing but tacitly acquiesce it because it covers their in-

adequacies. It did so mindless of its dire unintended consequences.

The self-inflicted hardship was placed against villagers. With joblessness, indeed it's the answer to any family's prayer because there's none from the local government.

We wanted undisturbed progress but how do you define this beast? Why are we so weak and scattered on this and other issues of substance? What's our value system anyway? Is it resting on the floor of NAP, casino as the dreamed economic mainstay and the accompanying destruction of traditional values? Why have we skipped planning our future? Is permanent dependence your trophy for the multitude hailing from your failed leadership?

With the quiet tool of neo-colonialism leaching everywhere coupled with new money from across the Philippine Sea, the elite has turned many of us into "cornered lapdogs." They now command, "You go work for BSI then go down to the port and sing 'Hafa Adai' to two-by-fours, plywood, nails, cement bags...so we keep our new bosses happy."

Culture seems a convenient mouthwash as to openly ignore the simultaneous deculturation of indigenous tradition. It's conveniently treated with inconsequence. Could this be blamed on our agility to fast track the combined illnesses?

Villagers' decision

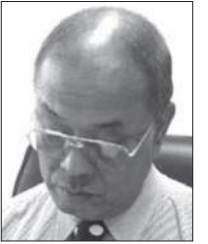
In the midst of the deepening abject poverty are the decisions at the village level that focus on family survival. Our families quietly farm, fish, hunt, engage reciprocity where needed, and stretch out as much as they could to help those in dire need.

It's the lowest level of the economic ladder that is hardly visible from atop imperial I Deni'. Folks simply do what had to be done to endure the inevitable dire condition they're forced into. Surprising how easily they subdue hardships with bright smiles and confident

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



voices. It's quiet indigenous resiliency without the elected elite!

Local leadership has accepted the runaway condition as the holy grail of the livelihood of our people. But then what could village folks do when the canoe is steered by people who have never even done traditional navigation? No clue either what a navigational chart looks like.

Deafening the slow but steady building of irreversible and immutable dependency from federal entitlements. So you see why I fear addressing culture given the level of deculturation. But it's not as bad as Chamolinian culture warriors that recently made another trip to the restaurant, saying they've never been there after frequenting the place for 40 years.

Do-nothing culture

At a coffee shop I overheard two friends talking about a new illness they call "right brain syndrome." So it is clear, the right side of the brain gives you the ability to tell right from wrong.

When you're into "No Good Land" the left side starts tooting the warning sign. The dysfunction has reached unprecedented level.

Another said it's good to place them on our radar screen so "we don't bother them in what they do best—nothing!"

How and how much we talk to children matters

By KATHY HIRSH-PASEK and ROBERTA MICHNICK GOLINKOFF
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Twenty years ago, a landmark study by renowned developmental researchers Hart and Risley revealed the now famous "30 million-word gap"—referring to the number of words spoken to low-income 3-year-olds vs. their more affluent peers. This finding mobilized numerous national, state and local efforts, most focused squarely on how we can help parents read, sing and talk to their children in an effort to narrow this gap. But the use of the science is missing the mark.

We now know it's not just how we talk to our children; it's how we talk with them. And we must adjust our efforts accordingly.

Urging parents to communicate at their children in an attempt to fill their brains with these extra 30 million words is not the right approach. Our labs, among others, have conducted three recent studies showing that the amount of language passing through children's ears does not predict later outcomes.

In one of these studies, we examined the kind of conversations that low-income mothers had with their 2-year-old children, as well as the number of words that moms used. We asked whether we could find clues in these conversations that predicted the children's language at the age of 3. Was the magic ingredient the amount of language spoken to the child? Or might a better predictor be the kind of fluid back-and-forth conversations some parents have with their children, which we call the "conversational duet"?

Answer: the conversational duet.

We must promote warm and caring relationships in which adults don't just talk to children, but instead engage in a back-and-forth interaction. When parents keep the conversation going, rather than simply trying to get their children to hear as many words as possible, they are preparing their children for later language and school success.

Another study, with former graduate student Sarah Roseberry Lytle, investigated word-learning by children who were directly engaging with others on television and video-chat platforms like Skype. The study found that while children under 3 years old learn virtually nothing from hearing words on a television screen, their response to interactions on video chat were indistinguishable from in-person communication. TV language floats by even when children seem fully engaged, but the interactivity of video chatting enabled the other person to "duet" with the children, responding to what they were doing and saying in a way that allowed them to process and retain words at a higher rate.

Finally, a third study, with graduate student Jessa Reed, examined what happens when the conversational duet is disrupted. To test this, we had parents teach two words to children in each of two conditions.

In one condition, the mother's teaching is interrupted by a phone call. In the other, the word is taught without a break. We found that children learn words in the uninterrupted condition, but not in the interrupted condition. When we break the back-and-forth interaction, children do not realize the benefits of the duet. Of course, this is not to say that parents can't take calls, but just to note that language learning doesn't happen when conversations are interrupted.

Taken together, these three studies, along with many more in the field, offer a cautionary tale. If we simply encourage more talking at or to children, it won't promote language learning. But if we help parents see the value in rich conversations with children, using language or gestures, children will learn to participate in conversations

that foster language and school success.

Bottom line? If we want to truly move the needle on early language and literacy, we must jump from messages about the quantity of words children hear to messages about the quality of language within caring relationships. And that demands moving to messages that encourage the back-and-forth of conversational duets.

Roberta Michnick Golinkoff is the director of the Child's Play, Learning, and Developmental Laboratory at the University of Delaware. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek is the co-director of the Temple Infant and Child Laboratory at Temple University. They wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Congress has opportunities to make meaningful impact

By DENNY HECK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The 114th Congress is on track to be defined by its ability to handle important cliffs. The pressure is on. Do we stay on firm ground or do we let our country slip to the bottom?

This year, Congress avoided the doc fix cliff by working together in a bipartisan fashion to fix Medicare payments for doctors while also continuing a successful health care program for American kids. It was what America has always wanted in their representatives: negotiation and cooperation.

Two cliffs remain on the horizon. Congress has until May 31 to find a funding fix for the Highway Trust Fund, and until September 30 to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. If we circumvent that first cliff, construction on our roads, highways, bridges and transit systems continues. If we dodge that second cliff, vital export credit for American companies large and small can continue and production lines across America will stay operating.

We can avoid these cliffs simultaneously, just as we did with the doc fix and the children's health insurance program. Let's fix our infrastructure revenue stream, fund important infrastructure projects and support our nation's export infrastructure at the same time.

It's not an original concept, but it really does come down to our economy. Democrats get that. Many Republicans do too. This transcends party lines, and it will ultimately depend on those who get it

done, not those who argue as a delay tactic.

In our history, we've been cautious—but never intimidated—by cost. Americans know it will take money to rebuild our infrastructure. They know there may be a little risk involved in financing global transactions. But we've been brave enough to incur costs when it is the smart thing to do.

And sometimes you've got to spend money to save money. Every dollar spent on infrastructure improvements translates into \$5.20 in return value, based on reduced vehicle maintenance costs, shorter delays, less fuel consumption, improved safety, etc. The Export-Import Bank is a self-funded agency, so it runs on the money it earns from interest rates, while also returning billions back to the Treasury to bring down the deficit. It does this while enjoying a 0.175 percent default rate, showing that risk is properly managed and kept to a minimum.

The tea party opposes high levels of federal spending and the existence of the Ex-Im Bank (despite it costing the taxpayer nothing). But let me be clear: This tea party is not a grassroots movement it claims to be. The tea party is a Koch-funded, Heritage-funded, astroturfing operation that aims to make people fear the word "government" in any context.






We can retreat into austerity and ignore the cliffs, like tea party extremists want. Or we can confront our challenges with smart policy solutions that every American—Democrat, Republican or unaffiliated—can get behind. Let's improve our nation's transportation infrastructure, our nation's export infrastructure and unleash long-lasting economic growth in return.

We're all in this together, and we've got to the bipartisan votes to make the smart, level-headed decisions now. Congressional leadership can do the right thing, or they can join their tea party colleagues reclining back in their front row seat to watch our country fall behind.

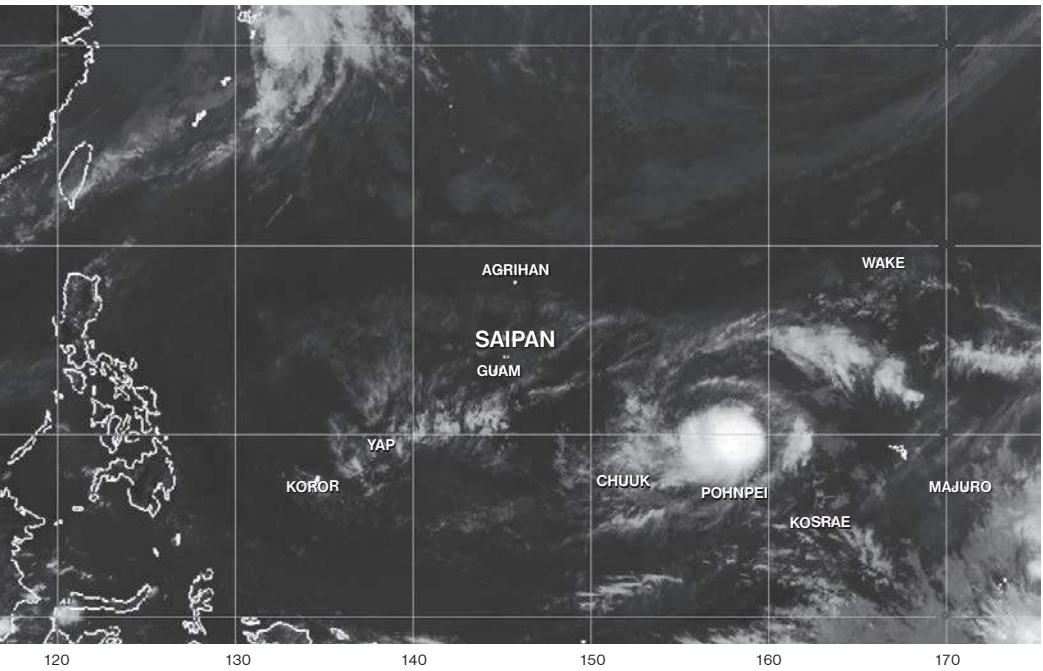
Congressman Denny Heck represents Washington state's 10th Congressional District in the House of Representatives. Readers may send him mail at 425 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 25 to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Dolphin (07W) is centered about 235 miles north of Pohnpei near 10N158E and moving west-northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms near the center are north of Pohnpei within 100 miles of 9N158E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of the center are within 100 miles of a line from 8N155E to 11N154E and north of the center within 75 miles of a line from 11N154E to 14N157E to 15N160E to 13N167E. For more information on Tropical Storm Dolphin, see bulletins issued by Joint TWarning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. The southeastern end of a monsoon trough runs southeastward from Tropical Storm Dolphin at 10N158E through a tropical disturbance centered southeast of Majuro at 4N176E to end near 2N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Kosrae are south of 4N from 162E to 170E while patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from Tarawa to east of Majuro are east of a line from EQ170E to 6N173E to 11N178E. A cold front curves southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N165E to 21N154E then to 20N142E before turning northwestward as a warm front to beyond 25N at 138E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are along and up to 125 miles north of this boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲87	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼62
Hong Kong	Showers	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Manila	Sunny	▲95	▼76
Melbourne	Rain	▲55	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼57
Osaka	Sunny	▲78	▼62
Paris	Showers	▲72	▼57
Pusan	Windy	▲75	▼59
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼61
Salem	Rain	▲54	▼46
San Francisco	Windy	▲60	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼58



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
4:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:50 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	1:37 AM	1:51 PM
Thursday	2:25 AM	2:49 PM
Friday	3:13 AM	3:47 PM
Saturday	4:01 AM	4:46 PM
Sunday	4:51 AM	5:46 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

Joeten foundation gives \$20K for Maysak relief



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joeten staff and management, Red Cross staff and board members, and representatives of the Chuuk community have a group photo taken.

The Joeten group of companies, through their charitable arm, the Joeten-Dai Dai Foundation, has pledged \$20,000 of in-kind support through the American Red Cross NMI Chapter to help families during their recovery in the wake of Typhoon Maysak.

"The foundation's support is perfect timing as the critical long-term recovery phase is just beginning," said John

Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Red Cross. "Often-times when the emergency supplies have been delivered, the public moves on to the next disaster and forgets that long-term recovery can take months or even years. Joeten's support of construction supplies and other critically needed items will go a long way to help families in Chuuk and Yap."

The Joeten Dai Dai Foundation is one of leading philanthropic organizations in Micronesia, providing support through educational scholarships, grants to various non-profit organizations such as MINA, Commonwealth Cancer Coalition, and many others.

"The foundation would not be able to provide help without the support of the hundreds of hardworking employees of

the Joeten Group of Companies. Each of our affiliates provides income to the foundation, which allows us to give back to our community in meaningful and important ways," said Patty McDonald, manager of the foundation. "Being able to help our brother and sisters in FSM is important to us and we hope these contributions will help improve lives that were affected by the recent storm." (PR)

Deadline today to apply for Chamber scholarship

The deadline to submit applications for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund is today, May 13, on or before 5pm ChST.

The Chamber will award six \$2,000 scholarships to deserving applicants on June 3, 2015.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce Educational Scholarship Fund provides one-time monetary awards in the following categories:

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR APPLICANTS

■ Completed application form

■ CNMI-accredited high school transcript with a minimum GPA of 3.5

■ Copy of SAT or ACT results

■ Summary of extracurricular activities and examples of leadership within the community

■ Two letters of recommendation, at least one of whom is from an educator or business employer/mentor

■ Copies of any college, university, or vocational school acceptance letters

■ Essay of no more than 1,000 words: "How I Will Change My Community"

COLLEGE STUDENT APPLICANTS

■ Completed application form

■ Official college transcript with a minimum GPA of 3.5

■ Two letters of recommendation, at least one of whom is from an educator or business employer/mentor

■ Copy of class schedule for semester/quarter that you will be enrolled

■ Proof of CNMI residency (such as CNMI voter's registration card)

■ Essay of no more than 1,000 words: "From the viewpoint of my chosen field of study, this is what I perceive as the No.1 issue that needs to be addressed for the CNMI."

PELEGRINO VOCATIONAL APPLICANTS

■ Completed application form

■ Summary of volunteer activities and examples of leadership within the community

■ Two letters of recommendation, at least one of whom is from an educator or business employer/mentor

■ Copies of vocational school acceptance letters

■ Copy of course schedule and any completed courses

■ Essay of no more than 1,000 words: "How I Will Change My Community"

Complete scholarship application packets (together with all required documents) must be submitted to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, located on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, no later than 5pm today. Some applicants may be asked to attend a personal interview or teleconference as part of the selection process. For information and more details, email coordinator@saipanchamber.com or call April/Giselle at 234-7150. (SCC)

BSI donates \$5K for spay/neuter program

Best Sunshine International Ltd. chief operating officer Matthew Harkness handed a \$5,000 check to Rose Smith of Empty Vessel Ministry and Spencer Marchadesch, manager of the mayor's office dog control program, on April 29, 2015, to help support the upcoming spay and neuter clinics on Saipan.

"Best Sunshine is pleased to be contributing to this worthy cause. As a new member of the community, we support the Office of the Mayor's island beautification program," said Harkness.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said, "We are fortunate to receive a monetary donation from one of our island's newest growing business, Best Sunshine International. The donation will assure that pets on our island will receive the health care they need to live healthier."

A spayed or neutered dog is a healthier, happier, and friendlier pet than one that is not.

Empty Vessel Ministry is assisting the Office of the Mayor of Saipan with preparation for the May 19 to 29 spay and neuter clinic, which will be operated by a team of veterinarians



Best Sunshine International Ltd. chief operating officer Matthew Harkness, center, presents a ceremonial \$5,000 check to Rose Smith of Empty Vessel Ministry, right, and Spencer Marchadesch, left, manager of the mayor's office dog control program, on April 29, 2015.

and veterinary support technicians from Animal Balance and Humane Society International.

With the monetary donation, "we will be able to make the clinic affordable and conveniently accessible to pet owners

for a very limited time," said Marchadesch.

Smith said, "It is our mission to assist the community in any way we possibly can, and

collaborating with Office of the Mayor of Saipan, Animal Balance, Humane Society International, and Best Sunshine International is carrying out our purpose." (PR)

Taste of the Marianas to add magic show, yo-yo exhibition



Jamaican Tangantangan performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan.



Rose Dance Studio performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015, on Saipan.



Rose Dance Studio performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan.



Simiyan Manainata performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan.



Winners of the adult heat of the Pie-Eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager and emcee Bruce Bateman, John Lewis (third place), Simon Necesito (first place), and Raymond Emul (second place), and festival coordinator Ryan Calvo.



Canton Restaurant and 17 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan.

Southern Manta Ray Band, Uncle Ben's Music & Dance, Luis La Forte, Teivi Maori, and Blue Dream Band.



Kanoa Resort Saipan and 17 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan. The event is held every Saturday during May Tourism Month beginning at 6pm at American Memorial Park.



Coral Ocean Point Resort and 17 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan.



Herman's Modern Bakery and 17 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 9, 2015, on Saipan.

The 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will feature its first-ever magic and yo-yo show in the back stage this Saturday, May 16, starting at 8pm.

The event brings some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment to the American Memorial Park every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm in May as part of the monthlong celebration of Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"With five Saturdays this year, we decided to bring in something new and exciting with a magic show featuring Joel "Prinze" Salvosa and a yo-yo exhibition by Julius Rey D. Barro in Week 3," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

The MVA, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly host the annual event.

Revelers joined two heats of the Pie Eating Competition last Saturday, May 9, with repeat winners from the Hotdog-Eating Competition on May 2 also placing in Saturday's adult heat. Simon Necesito, second place finisher in the Hotdog-Eating Competition, polished off his Herman's Modern Bakery sweet potato pie first on Saturday. Raymond Emul, who finished third the previous week, took second place in the Pie-Eating Competition, while John Lewis finished third.

In the youth division, Eric Enriquez finished first, followed by Joel Fruit in second place, and Conall Hartig rounding out the winners in third place. The winners walked away with \$50, \$30, and \$20 worth of Taste tokens.

"Almost everyone comes to the Taste of the Marianas with a good appetite," said Duenas, "especially some of our contest competitors!"

In addition to the magic show, this Saturday's entertainment lineup includes Saipan

Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 15 hotels and restaurant vendors, three beverage vendors, non-stop

live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. (MVA)

Business

Only 3 of 7 midsize SUVs perform well in crash tests

DETROIT (AP)—Only three of seven midsize SUVs from the 2015 model year performed well in front-end crash tests done by an insurance industry group.

The Nissan Murano and Jeep Wrangler four-door got the highest, or “good,” rating in the latest round of Insurance Institute for Highway Safety small overlap crash tests. The Ford Flex got the second-best “acceptable,” rating in the test, which mimics what happens when a car’s front corner collides with another vehicle or object such as a utility pole.

The Dodge Durango, Jeep Cherokee and Hyundai Santa Fe got “marginal” ratings, and the Dodge Journey received a “poor” rating on the test, in which 25 percent of a vehicle’s front end strikes a barrier at 40 mph.

The test, instituted in 2012, is more demanding than the U.S. government’s head-on frontal crash test. The institute uses its crash test scores to prod automakers into adding safety devices or making their cars more crash-resistant, especially as vehicles are redesigned.

The Murano, with a superior-rated system that automatically



In this April 16, 2014 file photo, the 2015 Nissan Murano SUV is introduced at the New York International Auto Show, in New York.

brakes the SUV when a front-end crash is imminent, earned

the coveted IIHS “Top Safety Pick Plus” designation. To earn

that, vehicles must get “good” ratings in four crash tests,

“good” or “acceptable” in the overlap test, and they must have

available a front crash prevention system that can brake the vehicle.

Ford’s boxy Flex earned a “Top Safety Pick” rating, falling short of the “Plus” because it doesn’t have automatic braking available.

The Jeep Wrangler, made by Fiat Chrysler, didn’t win a “Top Safety Pick” because it offered only “marginal” side and rear crash protection, the institute said in a statement.

Of the seven SUVs tested in this round, the Fiat Chrysler’s Dodge Journey was the worst performer. The passenger compartment failed to hold up in a crash, the parking brake pedal tore through the crash dummy’s left lower leg, and the side air bag failed to inflate, the institute said. The Journey was introduced in 2009.

In an earlier test of nine midsize SUVs from the 2014 model year, the Toyota Highlander earned a “Top Safety Pick Plus” rating, while the Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain made by General Motors got “Top Safety Pick” designations along with the Kia Sorento and Nissan Pathfinder.

Complaints against airlines rise, Frontier ranks worst

DALLAS (AP)—Consumer complaints against airlines are rising even as the carriers get slightly better at staying on schedule.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said Monday that it received more complaints from consumers in March than it did in either the previous month or March of 2014.

While the numbers are still very small—only about one in every 50,000 passengers complains to the government—they vary greatly among carriers.

Passengers on Frontier Airlines were 34 times more likely to complain than passengers on Southwest Airlines, which has the lowest complaint rate. Spirit Airlines had the second-worst rate.

Frontier and Spirit are so-called ultra-low-cost carriers that charge low base fares but add fees for many things including carry-on bags and seat assignments.

A Frontier spokesman, Jim Faulkner, said customers who called the reservations center in March were sometimes put on hold for up to 45 minutes as the airline switched to a new reservations system.

Faulkner said that Frontier added staffing, and hold times have been reduced to under three minutes. He

said complaints were down so far in May.

Transportation Department officials recently discussed the complaint levels with both Frontier and Spirit, according to a department spokeswoman. There are no penalties for having a high complaint rate, but the department considers them when deciding whether to investigate potential violations of rules dealing with fare advertising, overselling flights and other consumer issues.

Overall, the March complaint rate among the 14 airlines covered in the government report jumped 27 percent from February and 55 percent from the previous March.

The Transportation Department said that 78.7 percent of flights operated by those 14 airlines arrived on time in March, up from 72.8 percent in February and 77.6 percent in March 2014. The government defines an on-time flight as one that arrives within 14 minutes of schedule.

Hawaiian Airlines—blessed by usually good weather and lots of short flights in its home state—ranked best, while Frontier was last. Frontier said it is increasingly focused on getting the first flight of the morning out on time so that delays don’t cascade throughout the day.

New blood tests, liquid biopsies, may transform cancer care

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

A new type of blood test is starting to transform cancer treatment, sparing some patients the surgical and needle biopsies long needed to guide their care.

The tests, called liquid biopsies, capture cancer cells or DNA that tumors shed into the blood, instead of taking tissue from the tumor itself. A lot is still unknown about the value of these tests, but many doctors think they are a big advance that could make per-

sonalized medicine possible for far more people.

They give the first noninvasive way to repeatedly sample a cancer so doctors can profile its genes, target drugs to mutations, tell quickly whether treatment is working, and adjust it as the cancer evolves.

Two years ago, these tests were rarely used except in research. Now, several are sold, more than a dozen are in development, and some doctors are using them in routine care.

Gurpaul Bedi had one for

colon cancer that spread to his lungs. About 10 percent of patients with metastatic colon cancer at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center now get liquid biopsies.

“I think it’s wonderful,” said Bedi, who lives in Atlanta and goes to Houston for his care. “A lung biopsy, many doctors told me, is not easy.”

In Philadelphia, a liquid biopsy detected Carole Linderman’s breast cancer recurrence months before it normally would have been found.

“Had this test not been avail-

able, we may not have known I had cancer on my spine until symptoms showed up,” which may have been too late for good treatment, she said.

The huge potential for these tests is clear. The problem: There are no big, definitive studies to show they help patients, how accurate they are, which type is best or who should get them and when.

Still, patients do better when drugs are matched to their tumors, and liquid biopsies may give a practical way to do that more often.

Google acknowledges 11 accidents with its self-driving cars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Google Inc. revealed Monday that its self-driving cars have been in 11 minor traffic accidents since it began experimenting with the technology six years ago.

The company released the number after The Associated Press reported that Google had notified California of three collisions involving its self-driving cars since September, when reporting all accidents became a legal requirement as part of the permits for the tests on public roads.

The director of Google’s self-driving car project wrote in a web post that all 11 accidents were minor—“light damage, no injuries”—and happened over 1.7 million miles of testing, including nearly 1 million miles in self-driving mode.

“Not once was the self-driving car the cause of the accident,” wrote Google’s Chris Urmson.

“Cause” is a key word: Like Delphi Automotive, a parts supplier which suffered an accident in October with one of its two test cars, Google says it was not at fault.

Delphi sent AP an accident report showing its car was hit, but Google has not made public any records, so both enthusiasts and critics of the emerging technology have only the company’s word on what happened. The California Department of Motor Vehicles said it could not release details from accident reports.

This lack of transparency troubles critics who want the public to be able to monitor the rollout of a technology that its own developers acknowledge

remains imperfect.

John Simpson, privacy project director of the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog, notes that Google’s ultimate goal is a car without a steering wheel or pedals. This could prevent a person from taking over if a car loses control, making it “even more important that the details of any accidents be made public - so people know what the heck’s going on.”

Delphi’s accident report shows that the front of its 2014 Audi SQ5 was moderately damaged when it was broadsided by another car while waiting to make a left turn. Delphi’s car was not in self-driving mode at the time, company spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said.

Five other companies with testing permits told the AP they had no accidents. In all, 48 cars are

licensed to test on state roads.

That left Google, which has outfitted 23 Lexus SUVs with driverless technology. Asked last week whether its cars suffered the other three accidents, it acknowledged “a handful of minor fender-benders, light damage, no injuries, so far caused by human error and inattention.”

On Monday, Urmson posted a more complete accounting online, going back to the program’s origins in 2009.

The Google cars have been rear-ended seven times, often when stopped “but also on the freeway,” wrote Urmson, director of Google’s self-driving car program. In other collisions, the cars were side-swiped or “hit by a car rolling through a stop sign.” Eight of the 11 collisions were on city streets.

Nation

5 killed, homes destroyed as tornadoes hit Texas, Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Emergency responders searched through splintered wreckage Monday after a line of tornadoes battered several small communities in Texas and Arkansas, killing at least five people, including a young couple who died trying to shield their daughter from the storm.

The couple, both in their late 20s, died when a twister hit their mobile home late Sunday in the Arkansas town of Nashville.

Michael and Melissa Mooneyhan were trying to protect their daughter when the parents' trailer flipped over and "exploded," Howard County Coroner John Gray said.

"That poor little girl is never going to know them," Gray said. "But she's young enough that she'll never remember what happened."

The girl, who is about 18 months old, was taken to the hospital and later released to relatives.

The two parents met when they were teenagers attending different high schools and were married in April 2004, before they even graduated.

Polly McCammack, who also lives in Nashville, is Melissa's third cousin. A week ago, she said, the close-knit family lost their grandmother who "practically raised" Me-



lissa and her siblings.

"The family has been hit hard. They're strong, but it's almost like to the point you're afraid to breathe," McCammack said.

Michael Mooneyhan worked in the deli department of the local Wal-Mart. Melissa was a stay-at-home mom doting on their daughter.

"That baby was definitely their life. They considered her their greatest blessing. You couldn't find two parents who loved a child more," McCammack said. "She's going to grow up knowing family and knowing love."

Family members went to the site of the destroyed home looking for mementos, toys

and other things they could salvage for the little girl, McCammack said.

National Weather Service investigators confirmed a tornado with a preliminary EF2 rating and winds estimated at 125 mph touched down in Nashville, meteorologist Travis Washington said.

The county's tornado si-

rens were sounded for so long during Sunday's first tornado warning that the battery was drained, Howard County Emergency Management Coordinator Sonny Raulerson said.

When a second warning was issued for about 16 miles south of Nashville, the sirens could not be sounded, Raulerson said.

AP
Terri Webb holds her sister's cat after the cat was found Monday, May 11, 2015. The soaking wet cat was freed when a piece of heavy equipment lifted a portion of a flattened mobile home at the D&J Mobile Home Park in Nashville, Ark., a EF2 tornado touched down late Sunday night. Family and friends sifted through the wreckage for anything salvageable.

In neighboring Texas, a tornado pummeled the small city of Van, damaging or destroying scores of homes and the local schools, according to Chuck Allen, fire marshal and emergency management coordinator for Van Zandt County.

Authorities confirmed two deaths.

For much of the day, eight people were still unaccounted for in Van, population 2,600, about 70 miles southeast of Dallas. But by late Monday night, Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Jean Dark said everyone on the missing list had been accounted for. However, she said that just to be safe, cadaver dogs were checking the area.

Officials confirmed that the tornado was an EF3, with winds from 135 mph to 140 mph, Allen said.

Mother: Son accused in officer killings had drug problem

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—Marvin Banks' drug use and drinking had worsened in recent years and he was hearing voices in his head.

His mother said she had hoped he would get help. He didn't, and now he is charged with capital murder in the deaths of two police officers in Mississippi. His girlfriend and brother are charged as accessories and a friend faces an obstruction charge.

Banks' mother, Mary Smith, said when she saw the booking photos of her 26-year-old son, she knew something was off.

"He was sick and out of his head and I tried to get him some help," she said on the steps of the Forrest County Courthouse, where she had gone to find out more information about her sons' arrest.

Marvin Banks had been smoking synthetic marijuana, known as spice, every day.

"He was on that spice. He was on every drug there was. Spice, powder, marijuana, drinking," she said.

Marvin Banks is accused of shooting officers Benjamin Deen and Liquori Tate. The officers died Saturday after Deen

was shot in the face, and Tate in the back.

Banks and another man identified as Cornelius Clark were passengers in a Hyundai that Deen stopped for speeding, said Mississippi Bureau of Investigation spokesman Warren Strain. The car was driven by Banks' girlfriend, 22-year-old Joanie Calloway, Strain said. Deen called Tate for backup when he decided to search the car. Strain said that when officers asked the three to get out of the car, Banks shot Deen and Tate.

Calloway was initially charged with two counts of

murder, but authorities lowered those charges to accessory to murder after the fact Monday. Clark, 28, is charged with obstruction. Banks' brother, 29-year-old Curtis Banks, is also charged with accessory to murder after the fact.

More than 1,000 people filled a hall at the Hattiesburg convention center Monday for a memorial. With photos of the uniformed men projected above the stage, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant—himself a former sheriff's deputy—said the city was enduring a difficult, sad time.

Latest Zimmerman dust-up linked to prior road rage incident

LAKE MARY, Fla. (AP)—George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who has had a series of run-ins with girlfriends, his ex-wife and random strangers since killing an unarmed black teenager, narrowly missed getting shot Monday after a mysterious dispute.

The dispute this time was with the same man that authorities said was involved in a road rage incident with Zimmerman last year. A bullet missed his head, spraying glass from the vehicle's windshield, said his attorney, Don West. He said the bullet lodged somewhere in the vehicle. He was treated at a hos-

pital and released.

No charges were immediately filed against either man.

Lake Mary Police Officer Bianca Gillett said during a news conference Monday that Matthew Apperson called 911 to report the shooting shortly after Zimmerman flagged down an officer to say someone had shot at him. Both Zimmerman and Apperson have yet to be interviewed formally by investigators, she said.

"We have not determined how or why the incident or altercation began," Gillett said.

A woman who answered the phone at the disability-benefits

business where Apperson works asked a reporter never to call again. Nobody answered the door at his Winter Springs condominium, where there is a "for sale" sign out front and a lock box on the door.

Last September, Apperson said Zimmerman threatened to kill him, asking "Do you know who I am?" during a confrontation in their vehicles. Apperson decided not to pursue charges, and police officers were unable to move forward without a car tag identified or witnesses.

"I explained to Matthew that without the tag, witnesses, and/or clear video identifying the driver

as George Zimmerman, it might be difficult to prove the alleged suspect was in fact Zimmerman," the Lake Mary police officer wrote in a report last September.

West said before the news conference that Zimmerman thought he knew who was responsible for the shooting and is cooperating with authorities.

Zimmerman was acquitted in the February 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, in a case that sparked protests and national debate about race relations. The Justice Department later announced it was not bringing a civil rights case against Zimmerman.

Study: Americans becoming less Christian, more secular

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of Americans who don't affiliate with a particular religion has grown to 56 million in recent years, making the faith group researchers call "nones" the second-largest in total numbers behind evangelicals, according to a Pew Research Center study released Tuesday.

Christianity is still the dominant faith by far in the U.S.; 7 in 10 Americans identify with the tradition. However, the ranks of Christians have declined as the segment of people with no religion has grown, the survey says.

Between 2007 and 2014, when Pew conducted two major surveys of U.S. religious life, Americans who described themselves as atheist, agnostic or of no particular faith grew from 16 percent to nearly 23 percent. At the same time, Christians dropped from about 78 percent to just under 71 percent of the population. Protestants now comprise 46.5 percent of what was once a predominantly Protestant country.

Researchers have long debated whether people with no religion should be defined as

secular since the category includes those who believe in God or consider themselves "spiritual." But the new Pew study found increasing signs of secularism.

Last year, 31 percent of "nones" said they were atheist or agnostic, compared to 25 percent in 2007, and the percentage who said religion was important to them dropped.

Greg Smith, Pew's associate research director, said the findings "point to substantive changes" among the religiously unaffiliated, not just a shift in how people describe themselves. Secular groups have become increasingly organized to counter bias against them and keep religion out of public life through lawsuits and lobbying lawmakers.

The growth of "nones" has political significance as well. People with no religion tend to vote Democratic, just as white evangelicals tend to vote Republican. The Pew study found a slight drop—about 1 percent—in the evangelical share of the population, which now comprises a quarter of Americans. But the overall number of evangelicals rose to about 62 million people.

Asia

Up to 6K Rohingya, Bangladeshi migrants stranded at sea

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Hundreds of migrants abandoned at sea by smugglers in Southeast Asia have reached land and relative safety in the past two days. But an estimated 6,000 Bangladeshis and Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar remain trapped in crowded, wooden boats, migrant officials and activists said. With food and clean water running low, some could be in grave danger.

One vessel that reached Indonesian waters early Monday, was stopped by the Navy and given food, water and directions to Malaysia.

Worried that boats will start washing to shore with dead bodies, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the United States and several other foreign governments and international organizations have held emergency meetings, but participants say there are no immediate plans to search for vessels in the busy Malacca Strait.

One of the concerns is what to do with the Rohingya if a rescue is launched. The minority

group is denied citizenship in Myanmar, and other countries have long worried that opening their doors to a few would result in an unstemmable flow of poor, uneducated migrants.

“These are people in desperate straits,” said Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch in Bangkok, calling on governments to band together to help those still stranded at sea, some for two months or longer. “Time is not on their side.”

The Rohingya, who are Muslim, have for decades suffered from state-sanctioned discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which considers them illegal settlers from Bangladesh even though their families have lived there for generations.

Attacks on members of the religious minority, numbering at around 1.3 million, have in the past three years left up to 280 people dead and forced 140,000 others from their homes. They now live under apartheid-like conditions in crowded camps just outside the Rakhine state



AP
Maritime police officers near a boat which carried migrants in Langkawi, Malaysia, Tuesday, May 12, 2015. Hundreds of migrants abandoned at sea by smugglers in Southeast Asia have reached land and relative safety in the past two days.

a fifth carrying hundreds more was turned away early Monday.

Indonesia's Navy spokesman, First Adm. Manahan Simorangkir, said they were trying to go to Malaysia but got thrown off course.

“We didn't intend to prevent them from entering our territory, but because their destination country was not Indonesia, we asked them to continue to the country where they actually want to go,” he said.

Those who made it to shore aboard the other boats on Sunday were taken to a sports stadium in Lhoksukon, the capital of North Aceh District, to be cared for and questioned, said Lt. Col. Achmadi, chief of police in the area, who uses only one name.

Some were getting medical attention.

“We had nothing to eat,” said Rashid Ahmed, a 43-year-old Rohingya man who was on one of the boats. He said he left Myanmar's troubled state of Rakhine with his eldest son three months ago.

capital, Sittwe, where they have little access to school or adequate health care.

The conditions at home—and lack of job opportunities—have sparked one of the biggest exoduses of boat people since the Vietnam War.

Chris Lewa, director of the non-profit Arakan Project, which has been monitoring boat departures and arrivals for more than a decade, estimates more than 100,000 men, women and children have boarded ships since mid-2012.

Most are trying to reach Malaysia, but recent regional crackdowns on human trafficking networks have sent brokers and agents into hiding, making it impossible for migrants to disembark—in some cases even after family members have paid \$2,000 or more for their release, she said.

Lewa believes up to 6,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshis are still on small and large boats in the Malacca Strait and nearby international waters.

Tightly confined, and with

limited access to food and clean water, their health is deteriorating, she said, adding that dozens of deaths have been reported.

“I'm very concerned about smugglers abandoning boatloads at sea,” said Lewa.

In the last two days, 1,600 Rohingya have washed to shore in two Southeast Asian countries.

After four boats carrying nearly 600 people successfully landed in western Indonesia, with some migrants jumping into the water and swimming,

PH military chief visits South China Sea island

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' military chief flew to a Filipino-occupied island in the South China Sea on Monday and vowed to defend the territory and help develop tourism and marine resources there amid disputes with China.

Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang, accompanied by journalists and other military officials, said he visited Pag-asa Island to establish that the island is part of western Palawan province and “therefore Pag-asa is a territory of the Republic of the Philippines.” The island's international name is Thitu, and Chinese name is Zhongye.

He vowed to defend it and other Philippine-claimed islands

in the area from aggression.

“According to our constitution these are our regime of islands and we have to protect our regime of islands, in as much as they form our territory and sovereignty,” Catapang added.

He said he was coordinating with Mayor Eugenio Bito-onon on how the military can help implement the local government's development plans, including tours to the island.

The visit comes amid protests in the Philippines over China's stepped-up reclamation work on Philippine-claimed islands and aggressive maneuvers against Filipino air patrols and fishermen.

Mayor Bito-onon told re-

porters the local government is acquiring a 25-meter steel boat which can be used beginning next year to ferry tourists on the 26-hour trip from Palawan's mainland to Pag-asa and other islands within his municipality of Kalayaan. He said they also need a harbor to support a fishing industry, and to expand the 1.2 kilometer-long runway on the island where 85 civilians live.

Catapang said his visit, made on the invitation of the mayor, should not fuel more tensions with China. He came to see how the military can support Bito-onon's “tourism for peace” plan, and to say goodbye to troops stationed there before he retires in July, he added.

The C130 plane that flew Catapang's group to Pagasa passed by six islands in the area occupied by a handful of Philippine troops where small structures made of concrete and tin roofs can be seen from the air. Catapang described as “enormous” the reclamation work done by the Chinese on Philippine-claimed Subi Reef, which can be seen as the plane approached Pag-asa.

Major Ferdinand Atos, the most senior military officer on the island, was worried about the rapid Chinese reclamation.

“We are concerned with the creeping invasion,” he said, “Two years ago they were not there, now you see them getting closer.”

19 Hazara hostages freed in east Afghanistan, officials say

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan officials said kidnappers on Monday released 19 hostages out of a group of 30 that was kidnapped in February, all members of the Hazara ethnic community from the country's southern Zabul province.

Asadullah Kakar, a provincial council member in Zabul, said the 19 were freed in exchange for 22 Uzbeks, though it was not immediately clear how the Uzbeks came into

government custody.

Kakar said the 22, including women and children, are probably family members of the kidnappers. The kidnappers asked for another six people in exchange for the remaining 11 Hazara hostages they hold.

The exchange took place on Monday morning in the Jaghori district of Ghazni province, Kakar added.

The Hazara are a Shiite ethnic group in Afghanistan. The group has been targeted by the

Taliban and other Sunni extremists in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan.

Afghan authorities initially blamed an affiliate of the Islamic State group for the kidnapping of the 30 Hazaras in February.

Later Monday, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the release of the 19. He said they were still in Ghazni province, staying at a guesthouse because of the bad weather, but would later be brought to the

capital, Kabul.

Ghani insisted that no ransom had been paid for the release of the hostages, praising local security forces and “local elders” for their efforts—an indication there were likely involved in negotiations over the incident.

“Our attention now is on the remaining hostages and the government is doing all it can to have them return to their families as soon as possible,” he told reporters in Kabul.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon swerves into Japan, leaves 2 dead in PH

TOKYO (AP)—A powerful typhoon swerved into southern Japan Tuesday after hammering the northeastern tip of the Philippines, leaving at least two people dead. It was hovering near the southernmost Japanese islands of Amami Oshima, about 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) southwest of Tokyo, filling the area with heavy rains and strong winds, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. It was headed toward a part of the southern major island of Kyushu and then the main island of Honshu later in the day, to likely reach the northernmost main island of Hokkaido by Wednesday, the agency said. One home was damaged in one of the Amami Oshima islands, and two people were taken to the hospital for treatment, NTV news reported. Schoolchildren were asked to stay home, and some flights and ferries were cancelled, it said.

Indonesian police arrest 7 in seafood slavery case

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Lt. Col. Arie Dharmanto, Indonesia's National Police anti-trafficking unit chief, says two Indonesians and five Thai nationals have been arrested and accused of human trafficking connected with slavery in the seafood industry. Dharmanto said Tuesday that the arrests were made Monday and Friday in the remote island village of Benjina. Five Thai boat captains and two Indonesian employees at Pusaka Benjina Resources, one of the largest fishing firms in eastern Indonesia, were taken into custody. The arrests come after The Associated Press earlier this year reported on slave-caught seafood shipped from Benjina to Thailand where it can be exported and enter the supply chains of some of America's biggest food retailers. If prosecuted, the men face jail sentences of up to 15 years and fines as high as \$46,000.

Pakistani PM, top officials arrive in Kabul to talk peace

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Pakistani TV says the prime minister and the country's top civil and military leaders have landed in Kabul for key talks on ways to step up cooperation between the two neighbors in the battle against militants on both sides of the border. Tuesday's visit follows an invitation from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Pakistan's delegation includes Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif and the head of Pakistan's intelligence agency, Gen. Rizwan Akhtar. The army says the delegation hopes to make progress on common issues of peace and development. The two countries have had a rocky relationship, troubled by mistrust. But ties and cooperation improved following a Taliban attack on a Pakistani school last year that killed nearly 150 people, mostly children.

World

Despite leading war in Yemen, Saudi Arabia mostly untouched

NAJRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Khatim Umm Salem's quiet, secure life betrays no signs of the war taking place just a few miles away.

In the mornings, the elderly woman sits in front of a fan outside her tiny shop in the old market of Najran. In the evenings, she listens to the Quran on the radio. She sleeps with the door unlocked, since all her neighbors know her.

When asked about the war, she shrugs and makes a prayer. As a widow, she receives free health care and the little she needs, 1,000 Saudi riyals or

\$267, from the government each month.

"Sometimes I make a profit, sometimes I don't," says the Saudi villager, who does not know how old she is.

Saudi Arabia, an oil-rich nation with about 20 million citi-

zens, is now leading an offensive against the Shiite Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen, who are supported by its arch-rival Iran. Yet if not for the huge propaganda posters and the state media, you would never know this was a country

at war, in much the same way that life in the United States sometimes seemed distant from the conflict in Iraq.

From the ancient city of Najran to the gleaming, SUV-ridden capital of Riyadh, much of the kingdom continues on its

prosperous way, as reflected in AP interviews with more than two dozen people. One reason is that many citizens are already living comfortably with government help, and new monarch King Salman ordered an extra month's salary for civil servants. And for those in the pockets of poverty overshadowed by Riyadh's gated wealth, the war is largely the royal family's business.

In Riyadh itself, there is a vague sense of pride, of a nation finally coming into its own. The war comes at a pivotal time for Saudi Arabia: King Salman ascended to the throne in January, and he has all but appointed his son as his successor. As this generational change takes root, the country wants to project a strong image of itself as the backbone of Arab solidarity by leading Arab countries against the Houthis. It also wants to be in the line of defense of Sunnis

against Iran, which has supported Shiite militias in Iraq and the government of Bashar Assad in Syria.

"There's support for the war because it came after much indignity from Iran," according to writer and analyst Abdulmajeed al-Buluwi. He said the Yemen offensive was seen as "revenge for dignity and honor."

The offensive shows how far this country has come since the first Gulf War of 1990, when the U.S. military defended its borders. Saudi Arabia has now acquired tens of billions of dollars in military equipment. It has also emerged from the Arab Spring unscathed, unlike former powerhouse Egypt, and is now propping up Cairo's ailing economy with aid. In return, Egypt is a key partner against the Houthis.

"Saudi Arabia is in a new stage where it is more outspoken and more aggressive," al-Buluwi said.

SIDE BAR

Saudi-led coalition pounds Yemen on eve of proposed truce

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition pounded weapons depots on the edge of Yemen's capital Monday, one day before a humanitarian cease-fire is due to start and a U.N. envoy arrives on his first visit to try to end the war.

The latest airstrikes followed the release by the Shiite rebels of video and photos of the purported wreck of a Moroccan F-16 that they claim to have shot down over the northern province of Saada near the Saudi border.

The Moroccan military said the plane had disappeared Sunday evening. An online news site with close ties to Morocco's royal palace and security and intelligence services said the aircraft was one of two that flew from a base in the United Arab Emirates on a reconnaissance mission over the Yemeni side of the border with Saudi Arabia.

The French-language site, Le360, said rebel anti-aircraft batteries stationed on mountains opened fire on the two aircraft as they flew at low altitude.

"The Moroccan fighter jets maneuvered, gained altitude, attempted to escape the danger, but it was too late. One of the craft was hit and went into a spin," Le360 reported.

Yemeni security officials said Monday's coalition airstrikes targeted arms and ammunition depots on Noqom mountain, on Sanaa's north-eastern edge. The bombardment shook the entire city, collapsing some homes and shattering windows. They also caused shells to explode from the arms depots, and the munitions hit residential areas and started fires. There was no immediate word on civilian casualties.



In this photo taken on April 15, 2015, a sign supporting the Saudi-led coalition's military action is seen at a mall in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Hammer and Sick of It: Ukraine tries to ditch communist past

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—A hulking steel statue of a victorious female warrior bearing aloft sword and shield looms in dour majesty over the Ukrainian capital. The Motherland Monument's shield bears the Communist hammer-and-sickle—but maybe not for much longer.

Ukraine's leaders are eager to be seen as reinventing the nation. And erasing all visible reminders of the communist past, they say, is an important step toward that goal.

"Elimination of communism has to happen in people's heads and consciousness," said Kiev deputy mayor Oleksiy Reznikov. "Symbolism irritates some people and creates a certain aura that

we need to get rid of."

Parliament opened the way last month by backing a package of laws that included a loosely formulated ban on communist, as well as Nazi, imagery and ideology. The provisions, which still require approval from President Petro Poroshenko, will make it illegal to show symbols from the Soviet era, such as the logo of Communist Party, or play Soviet-era anthems. It will also become an offense to deny the criminal nature of the Soviet regime.

Taking down all the communist symbols will take time, money and a fair dose of acrobatics, especially in the case of objects like the

100-meter (330-foot) tall Motherland Monument.

"We will find alpinist patriots, like the famous ones who painted a star at the top of a Moscow hotel the blue-and-yellow (of the Ukrainian flag)," Reznikov said. "We will ask for help from brave guys like that to get this work done."

Eager Ukrainian nationalists have for the past year been racing ahead of the authorities by pulling down dozens of statues of Vladimir Lenin, the Bolshevik revolutionary and founder of the Soviet Union. The sight has typically been greeted with a mixture of glee, indifference or, among mostly older people, dismay.

WORLD BRIEFS

French president calls for end to US embargo on Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—French President Francois Hollande called on Monday for ending of the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba, saying France "will be a faithful ally" as Cuba reforms its centrally planned economy and tries to re-enter the global economic system. Hollande's one-day trip made him the first French president to visit Cuba since it became an independent country. Along with a large contingent of French executives, he is focused on strengthening business and diplomatic relations five months after the declaration of detente between Havana and Washington. Hollande met with President Raul Castro during his brief visit to the island. The French leader said he also met for about 50 minutes with Castro's older brother and revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, who talked about climatic problems, agriculture and sanctions against Cuba. Hollande said during an encounter with French residents in Cuba that Castro looked physically "deteriorated," but that they had "an easy conversation."

Separatists attack Mali army patrol, gov't says 9 killed

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Mali's separatist rebels attacked an army convoy in the north on Monday, killing at least 9 soldiers, the government said. The separatist group says it killed 30 soldiers. Mali's Defense Minister Tieman Hubert Coulibaly said that defense forces were ambushed by members of the Coordination of Azawad Movements near the town of Tin

Telout. Nine Malian soldiers died and 14 others were injured, he said. "To the bereaved families, the minister offers condolences and profound compassion," he said. Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadane, spokesman for the coalition of separatist groups, also known by the acronym CMA, said they killed 30 soldiers in the attack. Civilians were caught in the crossfire between the separatists and soldiers, said Radhia Achouri, a spokesman for the United Nations mission in Mali. She did not give a casualty figure.

Protesters march again in Burundi's capital despite ban

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP)—About 2,000 people marched through a neighborhood of Burundi's capital on Monday as police looked on, breaking the government's ban on any further street protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term in power. The European Union Observer mission for the June elections said the Burundi government is curtailing fundamental freedoms of expression, association and protest which are essential conditions of democratic elections. "I take note that while demonstrations against the third mandate (term) have been banned and met with repression, demonstrations in favor of President Nkurunziza's candidacy have been allowed and its participants protected," said David Martin chief of the European Union observer mission. The expression of opinions that are opposed to those of the government can never be equated with insurgency, he said.

Good Housekeeping

Charcoal or gas grill? Answers to a burning question

By PAUL POGUE
ANGIE'S LIST

Among outdoor grilling fans, no rivalry burns hotter.

Certain rivalries last forever—think Coke vs. Pepsi or Apple vs. Windows—and, now, gas grills vs. charcoal grills.

We asked some seasoned grilling experts to weigh in on this searing question as the summer grilling season arrives.

COMFORT FOOD

Macaroni-Kidney Bean Salad

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

An unusual salad that is also unusually good!

- 1/2 cup Kraft fat-free mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sweet pickle relish
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups cooked elbow macaroni, rinsed and drained
- 1 (8-ounce) can Bush's red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 3/4 cup finely chopped celery
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped

Gas grills bring convenience

Aaron Nelson, owner of Quality Grill Service in Indianapolis, says grills powered by gas or propane turn on faster and offer more options and control than comparable charcoal grills.

"You can get your food on the grill in 10 minutes, you don't have to keep adding coals, and you can moderate your heat," he says. "You can cook a steak,

1. In a medium bowl, combine mayonnaise, pickle relish and black pepper. Add macaroni, kidney beans and celery. Mix well to combine. Fold in chopped eggs.
2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Serves 6 (1/2 cup).

TIP: Usually 1 cup uncooked macaroni cooks to about 1 1/2 cups.

**Each serving equals: 135 calories, 3g fat, 6g protein, 21g carb., 232mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Starch, 1 Meat.*

Considering a curb appeal makeover?

By NINA KOZIOL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Here are some tips from the landscaping experts we talked to on increasing the curb appeal of your home.

Simplify. "If you have a lot of tiny plants, the landscape may need to be scaled down," says landscape architect and author Billy Goodnick. "The view may need to be simpler with bigger masses of plants and fewer types of plants. You don't want it to look like it's too busy and too much work to maintain." On the opposite end of the spectrum, he says that oversize plants may work against you, too, and you may need to remove some, especially those that obscure the windows or walkway. "You want big plants to frame, not obscure, the house."

Check out the view. Cross the street and take a good, hard look at your front landscape to see what plants may be overwhelming the house. Try to view it as a first-time visitor would. "Now, as people do much of their home shopping online through Zillow or Realtor.com, viewing the property's front or foundation landscape is the initial green or red light for a buyer," says landscape architect Deirdre Toner.

Remake your beds. Does the landscaping reflect the style of your home? "If you have a modern house that's very linear, you'd want the bed lines to mimic the house (with) more architectural plants—

vertical grasses, for example," says landscape designer Diane Smith. "Bed lines (the edges that meet the lawn) should be simple and clean, and the beds spacious enough for plants with room for them to grow."

Eye candy. "Color is important," Smith says. "The home landscape should embrace the seasons—bulbs in spring, flowering shrubs, long-blooming perennials. It's nice to try and get something blooming from spring through fall."

Another often overlooked fix is the sidewalk leading to the front door. "When front walks get tired, it's an opportunity to redesign the walk. Don't just do what you had before," Smith says. If the walk has broken, cracked concrete, now may be the time to replace it with pavers and perhaps change it from a straight run to a curving path. Smith recommends that walkways be at least 4 feet wide so that two people can walk side-by-side to the front door. Adding an outdoor foyer—a place for a bench with some pots—sets out the welcome mat for visitors.

When it does come time to sell your house, Goodnick recommends staging the landscape. "You only get one chance to make a good first impression. Do a good cleanup and some simple grooming of the plants, and power-wash the walkway. You can get fancy or fussy near the door by adding a few little treats—some potted plants with color—along the way as visitors enter. Make it look inviting."



Many grillers swear by the intangible element that charcoal adds to the barbecue experience.

fish, chicken and veggies at the same time on a gas grill. Someone who's really savvy with a grill and wants to do things like smoking meat might gravitate to a charcoal grill, but the gas grill offers more options to cook quickly and conveniently."

Charcoal wins the flavor competition

Nonetheless, Nelson, who primarily works on gas grills, says many grillers swear by the intangible element that charcoal adds to the barbecue experience.

"You're using smoke-heat, so your meats are going to have a little more flavor," he says. "The gas grill industry has some really neat designs to mimic the smoky feel, and a seasoned grill brings some of that flavor, but you can never fully mimic what charcoal-smoked meat will taste like."

Jeremy Leyva, sales associate at the All American Grill Store in Jacksonville, Fla., says the two types draw in different fan-doms, especially given the do-it-yourself, wing-it-on-the-fly creativity charcoal offers.

"Gas fans like the ease of use and not having to tinker," he says. "Diehard charcoal fans know they'll get a different flavor. A lot of people who like to work with their hands or tinker tend to lean toward the charcoal."

Check the fuel differences

Nelson says gas grills consume less fuel and thus cost less. At a cost of about \$20 per refill, a single propane tank will last for more than 20 grillings, he says. "You're looking at less than

a dollar per cooking to feed your whole family," Nelson says. "A bag of charcoal runs between \$6 and \$10, and it can only be used once."

However, Leyva points out that modern, ceramic charcoal grills cook with more than just the blackened charcoal briquettes most people recognize from years of outdoor entertaining. "Lump" charcoal offers a high-heat, all-natural format.

"It's all hickory or oak, with no accelerants," he says. "You get a better taste from it, and it tends to last longer, because unlike charcoal briquettes, you can relight it next time." He says a 20-pound bag costs about \$24.

Look for the warranty

No matter which kind of grill you purchase, pay close attention to the warranty to ensure many years of happy barbecues.

"You can buy a grill for a couple of hundred bucks at a big-box store, but it'll be junk in three years," Nelson says. "The good companies like Weber or Broilmaster offer strong warranties so this will be the last grill you ever buy. You'll be spending around \$800 or \$900 for a portable Weber grill, but the 25-year warranty makes it the best value for your dollar."

Leyva says people can pay as little as a few hundred dollars for a charcoal grill, but he advises customers to go with a name brand with a solid warranty, which tends to cost between \$800 and \$1,200.

"Pay attention to the thickness of the stainless steel and the extent to which the company backs the warranty," he says.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Top 5 home upgrades

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: What upgrades to our house will pay off the most in the long run?—Karl V., Melrose, Massachusetts

A: Many people think that remodeling the kitchen is an expense they can fully recoup (in terms of home value or resale value), but that is not necessarily the case. According to *Remodeling Magazine*, which puts out a Cost vs. Value chart each year on home remodeling, a major kitchen remodel averaging \$56,768 will recoup 67.8 percent of that cost, or just \$38,485.

However, a number of indoor and outdoor projects will increase the value of your home. Here are five projects on the midrange cost scale that will provide the biggest return for your remodeling investment:

1. Entry door: Replacing your

entry door with a steel door will recoup 101.8 percent of the cost. (Replacing it with a fiberglass door will return 72 percent.)

2. Veneer: Replacing the bottom third of your home's exterior siding with manufactured stone veneer will recoup 92.2 percent of the cost.

3. Garage door: Replacing your garage door will recoup 88.4 percent of the cost.

4. Siding replacement: Adding vinyl siding to your home's exterior will recoup 80.7 percent of the cost.

5. Wooden deck: Adding or expanding a wooden deck will recoup 80.5 percent of the cost.

Other projects that have a higher chance of recouping their cost include a minor (below \$20,000) kitchen remodel (79.3 percent), wood window replacement (78.8 percent) or converting part of your attic to a bedroom (77.2 percent). Remodeling your bathroom will



recoup 70 percent of its cost.

So, when putting together a remodeling project list, take their lasting value into account. You may decide to downscale that ambitious kitchen or bathroom remodel and shift some of the budget to your home's exterior elements.

TIP: Wood or vinyl windows? Carefully consider the merits of both before deciding on replacement windows. For example, wood windows are aesthetically pleasing, but vi-

nyl windows require almost no maintenance.

Note: This is my final print column for This Is A Hammer. It's been a great, 14-year run with King Features Weekly Service. But it's not going away completely: You can find archived columns, great home tips and more at thisisahammer.com. And as always, you can continue to send your questions or home tips to ask@thisisahammer.com.

Life & Style

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox is lowering the curtain on “American Idol,” ending a series that dominated television throughout the 2000s and made stars of the likes of Simon Cowell, Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood.

The network announced Monday that “American Idol” will go off the air after its 15th and final season next spring. The cast from the past few seasons, with Ryan Seacrest as host and Jennifer Lopez, Keith Urban and Harry Connick Jr. as judges, will return for a season-long celebration of the show’s history.

“It was not an easy decision.” American Idol’ has been such a vital part of Fox for its run,” said Gary Newman, Fox Television Group co-chairman and CEO. He promised a season-long celebration that matches the show’s significance, with the suggestion that its big-name contestants and past judges may be involved.

Fox calling an end to ‘American Idol’

“American Idol” faded over the past few years, eclipsed in the music competition genre it pioneered by NBC’s “The Voice.” Personnel changes didn’t help, and neither did tinkering with the format, as the show fell victim to what usually kills off most television series—old age. Still, it was a solid performer for a Fox network that struggles in the ratings.

Dana Walden, co-chairman and CEO of the Fox Television Group, described it as a “pretty emotional decision” to end “American Idol.”

Fox and the show’s producers were discussing how the series would continue, but ultimately “we all arrived at the conclusion that it was time to bring the show to an end,” said

Newman. “But we wanted to do it in a way that was special and celebratory.”

“Idol” was a quick hit, with fans following contestants who sought the prized “yellow ticket” to Hollywood and a chance at stardom. In the early years, “American Idol” also showed many of the cringe-worthy auditions of contestants with no hope of winning, but has generally resisted those recently.

Simon Cowell, the Brit with a tart tongue and honest assessments, became a star as judge, along with his fellow originals, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson.

The big-voiced Clarkson became a major pop star after win-

ning “Idol,” and Underwood is a solid performer on the country charts. Personalities like Adam Lambert and Clay Aiken also became household names after competing on “Idol.”

“‘American Idol’ has been a big part of my life for so long, it’s frankly hard to imagine it without it,” said Seacrest, who was co-host of the show with Brian Dunkleman on the first season, and solo host for all the others. “It’s been a remarkable journey, and I feel very fortunate to have been part of a show that made television history in countless ways. It’s a show about chasing and fulfilling dreams and, truth be told, it

helped some of my own dreams come true, too.”

Walden said there are no specific plans yet, but that several former contestants and judges have already expressed “a lot of enthusiasm” for coming back and celebrating the show’s legacy in its final year.

“We’re going to deliver a really special season next year,” Newman said.

The series averaged 12.69 million viewers during its initial run in 2002, but exploded quickly thereafter, reaching a peak average of more than 30 million viewers each episode in 2006, according to the Nielsen company. It continued averag-

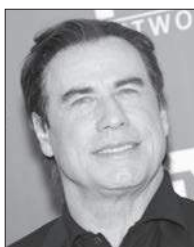
ing more than 20 million viewers an episode through the 2011 season, when its deteriorating popularity accelerated.

Its star at Fox was eclipsed this season by the music-based soap opera “Empire,” which will launch its second season in the fall. So far this year, “American Idol” is averaging 9.15 million viewers per episode, Nielsen said.

The show will run in a similar format next season as it has this year, airing Wednesday and Thursday nights starting in January for the beginning stages, then once a week on Thursday for the second part of the season, Fox said.

John Travolta helps recreate the O.J. Simpson trial for FX

NEW YORK (AP)—Like many people, John Travolta remembers where he was when O.J. Simpson was riding in a white Ford Bronco in that infamous slow-speed pursuit in 1994 before he surrendered



Travolta

here, to prove his innocence or his guilt,” Gooding said. “I think it’s more us putting the judicial system under the spotlight ... We try to find a truth in the moment so that we can find answers. I think this 10 hours of televi-

sion is gonna be very powerful, and I think a lot of people are going to learn a lot.”

David Schwimmer portrays the late-Robert Kardashian, an attorney on Simpson’s defense team and a loyal defender of the former pro-football player. He says he spoke to Kardashian’s ex-wife, Kris Jenner, for insight into the role.

“I was lucky enough to speak to (Jenner) for a few hours who was very generous with her time,” he said. “I thought, ‘Who better to tell me who Robert was as a husband and a father than her?’ and it’s been a very exciting process so far.”

Jenner, by the way, will be portrayed by Selma Blair. Actress Sarah Paulson, who has already worked with Murphy in “American Horror Story,” said she’s been analyzing footage to prepare for her part as prosecutor Marcia Clark.

“I’m just trying to take in her mannerisms, and then at the same time let some of it go. At first I thought, ‘Well I have to do her voice.’ And then I thought, ‘Her voice isn’t actually iconic. As long as I’m not doing something weird, you’re not gonna know it’s not her voice.’”

Paulson decided to imitate how Clark “listened a lot with her head to the side” and other mannerisms of the prosecutor.

“American Crime Story” will premiere on FX in 2016.

Miller’s dystopian dream roars again in ‘Mad Max: Fury Road’



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Tom Hardy, center, as Max Rockatansky and Charlize Theron, right, as Imperator Furiosa in Warner Bros. Pictures’ and Village Roadshow Pictures’ action adventure film, “Mad Max: Fury Road,” a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

NEW YORK (AP)—Three and a half decades is a long time for a fever dream.

But that’s how long the brutal, desolate post-apocalyptic world of “Mad Max” has been percolating, at desert-hot temperatures, in George Miller’s head. It was his first film, 1979’s “Mad Max,” with Mel Gibson, and it led to two more: 1982’s “Mad Max: The Road Warrior” and 1985’s “Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome.” On Friday, he’ll release his return to the harsh dystopian landscape of “Mad Max” in “Fury Road,” both a sequel and a reboot.

“Once you create characters, the imaginary world is following you—stalking you, as it were—in the deep recesses of your unconscious,” said Miller in a recent interview from his home in Australia. “Shooting the film was in many ways very familiar, but in the three decades that had passed

since the last one, everything has changed. The world has changed. We’ve, as film audiences, changed. Cinema has changed. Film language has changed. And I dare say I’ve changed.”

“Mad Max: Fury Road” replaces Mel Gibson with Tom Hardy and welcomes newcomer Charlize Theron as Furiosa, a woman piloting a truck called “the War Rig.” With a budget of about \$150 million, it’s a more extravagant summer spectacle than previous “Mad Max” films. Shooting on “Fury Road” was forced from its native land by unexpected rains in the Outback, decamping to the sands of Namibia for an arduous eight months of shooting.

Miller had spent the intermediate years mainly making family films (“Babe,” “Happy Feet”) and occasionally trying to mount a fourth “Mad Max.” It nearly happened in 2001

with Gibson, and at one point, an animated film was contemplated. But in the end, Miller was back in the desert, in his late 60s, crashing cars by the dozens.

“It’s both a wise man’s action movie, coming from the wisdom of a wise elder, and at the same time has the youthful recklessness and anarchy of a young spirit who’s prepared to challenge himself,” says Hardy. “If Obi-Wan Kenobi could make an action movie, this would have to be it. Or Yoda.”

“Fury Road” is otherwise true to the lean, elemental “Mad Max” aesthetic. Max, a Ford Falcon-driving loner, navigates a neo-Medieval wasteland where fuel and water are in scant supply. The heavy metal mayhem of “Mad Max” has inspired musicians as varied as Tupac and Motley Crew, and in the years since the last “Mad Max,” a

cottage industry of tamer dystopia has developed.

“You see it over and over again, not only in movies but in music videos and games,” says Miller, now 70, of the films’ influence. “It’s an evolutionary process and one thing builds on the next.”

“Mad Max,” however, separates itself from the post-apocalyptic pack in its cinematic bravado. It’s a more inventively shot blockbuster than most, and rather than spend an hour on muddled exposition, it jumps right into the action. “A Western on wheels,” is what Miller likes to call it; “Fury Road” is essentially a relentless three-day car chase.

It’s a deliberate approach by Miller, who cites the uninterrupted frenzy of Buster Keaton set pieces, early silent Westerns, Steven Spielberg’s “The Duel,” the chase classic “Bullitt” and the chariot race of “Ben Hur” as inspirations.

Picasso painting sells for \$179M; Giacometti sculpture \$141M

NEW YORK (AP)—A vibrant, multi-hued painting from Pablo Picasso set a world record for artwork at auction, selling for \$179.4 million on Monday, and a sculpture by Alberto Giacometti set a record for most expensive sculpture, at \$141.3 million.

Picasso's "Women of Algiers (Version O)" and Giacometti's life-size "Pointing Man" were among dozens of masterpieces from the 20th century Christie's offered in a curated sale titled "Looking Forward to the Past."

Christie's global president, Jussi Pylkkanen, who was the auctioneer, said the two pieces are outstanding works of art.

"I've never worked with two such beautiful objects," he said.

The Picasso price, \$179,365,000, and the Giacometti price, \$141,285,000, included the auction house's premium. The buyers elected to remain anonymous.

Overall, 34 of 35 lots sold for an auction total of \$706 million.

Experts say the high sale prices were driven by artworks' in-



In this May 4, 2015 file photo, Cassie, left, and Sean "Diddy" Combs arrive at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating "China: Through the Looking Glass" in New York.

vestment value and by wealthy collectors seeking out the very best works.

"I don't really see an end to it, unless interest rates drop sharply, which I don't see happening

in the near future," dealer Richard Feigen said.

Impressionist and modern art-

works continue to corner the market because "they are beautiful, accessible and a proven value," added Sarah Lichtman, a professor of design history and curatorial studies at The New School.

"I think we will continue to see the financiers seeking these works out as they would a blue chip company that pays reliable dividends for years to come," she said.

"Women of Algiers," once owned by American collectors Victor and Sally Ganz, was inspired by Picasso's fascination with 19th-century French artist Eugene Delacroix. It's part of a 15-work series Picasso created in 1954-55 designated with the letters A through O. It has appeared in several major museum retrospectives of the Spanish artist.

The most expensive artwork sold at auction had been Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of Lucian Freud," which Christie's sold for \$142.4 million in 2013.

"Pointing Man," depicting a skinny 5-foot-high bronze fig-

ure with extended arms, had been in the same private collection for 45 years. Giacometti made six casts of the work; four are in museums, and the others are in private hands and a foundation collection.

His "Walking Man I" had held the auction record for a sculpture: \$104.3 million in 2010.

Other highlights at Christie's included Peter Doig's "Swamped," a 1990 painting of a canoe in a moonlit lagoon, which sold for almost \$26 million, a record for the British artist. Claude Monet's "The Houses of Parliament, At Sunset," a lush painting of rich blues and magenta created in 1900-01, sold for \$40.5 million.

Christie's also had a Mark Rothko for sale. "No. 36 (Black Stripe)," which had never appeared at auction, also sold for \$40.5 million. The 1958 work was sold by German collector Frieder Burda, who exhibited it in his museum in Baden-Baden for several years.

Diddy talks 'tasteful' sex clip, new fragrance and Baltimore

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs will be the first to tell you that he doesn't launch brands, he launches lifestyles. So when it came time to promote his latest fragrance, he put himself on the line and starred in a racy video with girlfriend Cassie that many have deemed too risqué for television.

He said the simulated sex in the 3AM promotional video was inspired by those provocative Calvin Klein commercials.

"It pushes the envelope, but it's done in a very tasteful way. It's more about your thinking about than what you're seeing on the screen," explained Diddy.

With success making music as an artist and producer as well as with his fashion line, Sean John, Diddy says he's driven by the same principle for success—hard work. It's paid off; Forbes recently named him the wealthiest hip-hop artist, and his fragrances—this is the fourth—have earned him a couple of FiFi Awards, the Fragrance Foundation's annual

industry honors.

The Grammy-winning artist spoke about his brand last week, but had weightier issues on his mind, including the unrest in Baltimore over the death of Freddie Gray in police custody.

AP: You've been outspoken regarding the way the president handled Ferguson, what are your thoughts on Baltimore?

Diddy: Baltimore is something that people have to realize is not just something that is just occurring over this one tragedy. ... The black community are the forgotten ones—just like people are in poverty all over this country, but especially the black community. So you have a lot of built-up frustration especially in the kids that see their future is bleak and they are being forgotten. People need to pay attention to that. ... Something has to change soon.

AP: You have the music, the clothes, and the scent, the vodka line; what else can you do?

Diddy: It's philanthropy. So

for me, it's what change can I make. So you were talking about Baltimore and Ferguson. As an African-American man, I have a responsibility in the future. I want to be able to do more things to affect change.

AP: Would running for political office be one of them?

Diddy: No not at all. I love what I do. I don't like politics. I'm not a big talker. If I say I'm gonna run a marathon, I'm gonna run it. If I say I'm gonna put out a fragrance, I'm gonna put out a fragrance. If I say I'm gonna change the world for the positive, that's what I'm gonna do.

AP: The music business has changed. Is it important for artists to adapt to find other revenue streams?

Diddy: I'm an artist, but I'm also a businessman. As a businessman it was important for me to diversify. I didn't just look at myself as someone making music, I make lifestyles, so for me it was diversifying and just

loving business and figuring out how to market and create brands for this generation, (which) is something I specialize in.

AP: When are you going back into the studio?

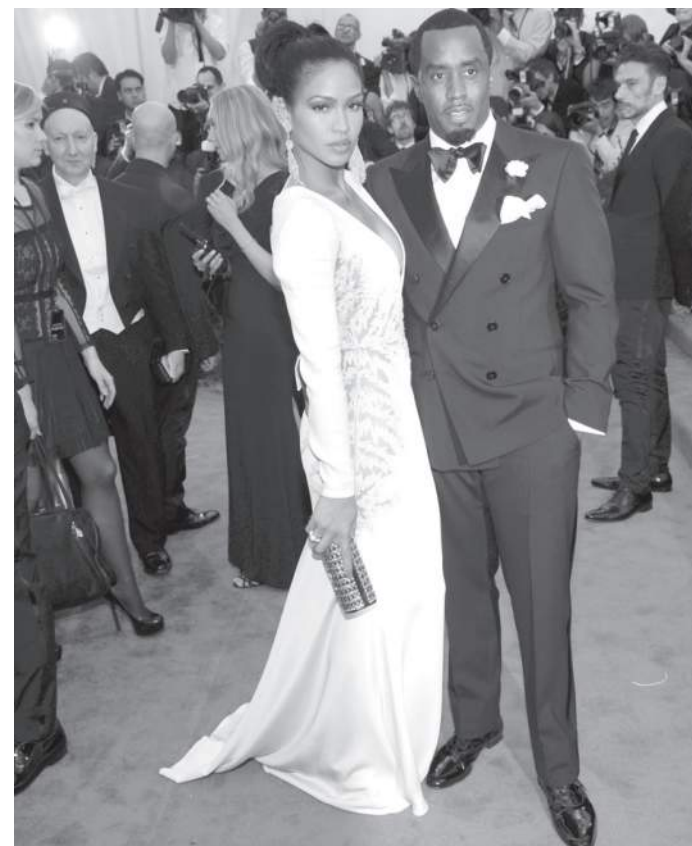
Diddy: I'm going back in the studio now. I'm producing other people now. That's how I started, producing. So I'm just in there having fun and really just experimenting with some things. But being able to launch new artists or artists that want a different sound for their next album—it's exciting to get back into producing.

AP: Any plans for a new Diddy album?

Diddy: If I come up with something great, I'll make sure I release something.

AP: What are your thoughts on Tidal (Jay-Z's music streaming service)?

Diddy: It's a great idea for the artist to be involved in the distribution. Everything takes time, so we'll see in the next couple of years. But I would bet on Jay Z.



In this May 4, 2015 file photo, Cassie, left, and Sean "Diddy" Combs arrive at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating "China: Through the Looking Glass" in New York.

Dinner promises good food and good times

DEAR ABBY: We have enjoyed an international dinner club with three other couples for many years. Besides an international theme, we occasionally have other theme dinners. The host couple chooses the country and is responsible for the main course. Another couple brings an associated entree, the third couple brings dessert and the fourth couple provides the wine. We rotate responsibilities so we host only once every four months.

We have become close friends over many memorable meals together, sharing pregnancy announcements, child rearing, graduations, weddings and anniversaries.

I think a "Dear Abby" dinner would be fun to host, and I'd love to plan a meal around your cookbooks. Would you please advise how this avid reader might get copies?

CHEF MIKE IN CANADA

DEAR CHEF MIKE: I know a Dear Abby dinner party would be enjoyable, because readers have written to tell me they've hosted one, and it made for an interesting and fun evening. The recipes are traditional, easy to read, simple to prepare and delicious.

As I mentioned to a reader from Little Rock who inquired about the booklet, one hostess described decorating her place

cards with appliqued hearts and tiny flowers. She created a centerpiece by making a "bouquet" of envelopes addressed to Dear Abby.

Another woman copied questions from past columns, printed them out and made them into a party game, instructing her guests to supply the answers. She said that after a few glasses of wine, some of the answers they came up with were hilarious, but not suitable for printing in a family newspaper.

My cookbooklet set contains more than 100 tasty recipes ranging from soups to salads, appetizers, main courses and desserts. The recipes can also be used for holiday celebrations and other special occasions. To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. My mother used many of these recipes for dinner parties, and so have I. I particularly recommend the Pecan Pie recipe—which has been printed in this column before because it has taken prizes at county fairs. It was given to Mama by the chef at the now-demolished Phoenix Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky, and people rave about it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Folks always tell me that gals like to be wooed,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



but when I holler "woo" at them, they give me dirty looks. What's up with that?

ABBY FAN FROM TWITTER

DEAR FAN: Decades ago, "gals" would have been flattered. But since the women's movement, many females would regard your attempt to be friendly as a form of sexual harassment rather than a compliment. Instead of "hollering," try saying hello and you may get better results.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

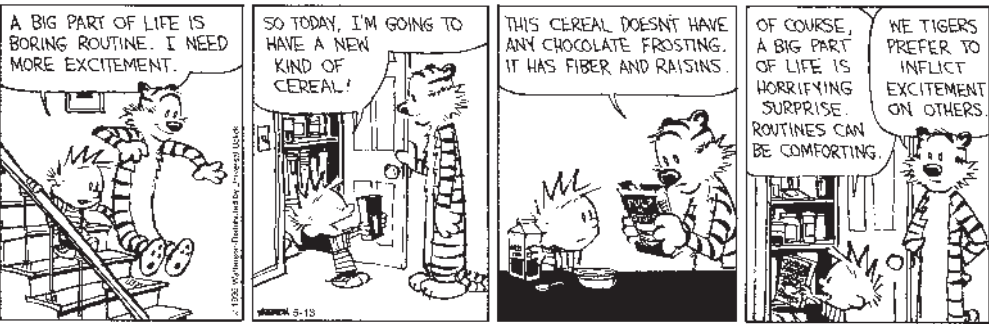
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

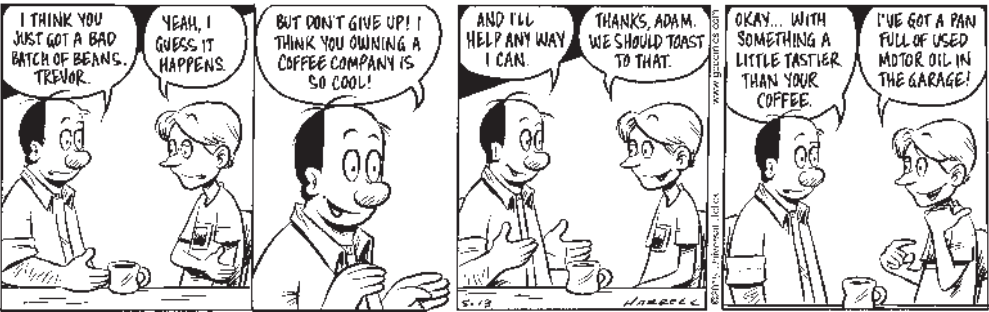


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Killer whale

5 Winter ailment

8 Reed instrument

12 Lummock

13 — -relief

14 Industrial region of Germany

15 House-hold arachnid

17 One of seven

18 Old photo shade

19 Copies

21 Skin abnormality

24 Vast expanse

25 North American peninsula, for short

28 Persia, now

30 Prized possession

33 Ostrich's cousin

34 Pizza dough

35 Ms. Thurman

36 USO audience

37 For fear that

38 Halt

39 — chi

41 Racetrack "helper"

43 Not digital, as a watch

46 Expire, as a subscription

50 Mongolian desert

51 U.S. area where industry once thrived

54 Tel —

55 Cleo's slayer

56 Slender

57 Assess

58 Chesapeake, e.g.

59 Exile isle

DOWN

1 Auto-maker

2 Paddock

3 Have faith in

5 Plead

6 Parisian pal

7 Very slightly

9 Regarding

11 History chapters

16 Has permission

20 "Money — everything"

22 Paddock

23 Have faith in

25 Plead

26 Parisian pal

27 Very slightly

29 Regarding

31 Comic Phillips

32 Chart

34 Advertising award

38 Not wobbly

40 Breathing

42 Last (Abbr.)

43 Culture medium

44 PBS science show

45 Snatch

47 Rind

48 Thick chunk

49 Sicilian spouter

52 — Today

53 Agent

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lena Dunham, 29; Robert Pattinson, 29; Stephen Colbert, 51; Stevie Wonder, 65.

Happy Birthday: Don't wait for things to run amok. Step up and confront whatever is standing in your way. Aggressive action, coupled with discipline, knowledge and strength, will help you conquer. Put love high on your list and do your best to nurture the partnerships that mean the most to you. Play to win, but don't forget to share your accomplishments. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 21, 28, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will make an interesting business contact if you network. Don't make personal changes impulsively or you will have regrets. Focus on expanding your skills, knowledge and expertise, not on changing your appearance. Observe what others are doing. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secrets must not be shared. If you divulge something about someone else, it will make you look bad. Taking on too much will be your downfall. Focus on what you can accomplish. Realistic expectations will help you succeed. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll face opposition and an untimely surprise if you haven't prepared to accept what someone around you does for a living. Talks will lead to emotional setbacks that may not be reversible. Honesty and diplomacy are necessary. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let anyone stop you from following your creative direction. Work alone and don't worry

about what others do or say. A last-minute change can be to your advantage if you don't make a fuss. Acceptance will make your life easier. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Working alongside others will bring good results. Discuss your expectations and concerns and you will end up in a leadership position. You will meet new and exciting people if you participate in an industry event or fundraiser. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect the unexpected. Patience will lead to a better position. Look for the positive in any situation you face and you will find a way to maneuver your way to success. Say little and do a lot. Romance will improve your personal life. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make up your mind to participate. Being indecisive will not help you get ahead. Step up your game and share your ideas. Don't let insecurity stand between you and advancement. Embrace change and present what you have to offer. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go with the flow. Don't be daunted by what others do. You don't have to keep up with anyone. Follow your heart and enjoy the company of someone you love. Do your own thing and you will find the happiness you are searching for. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be mesmerized by someone who is very different from you. Socialize with people who are of the same mindset and you will avoid wasting time that should be spent on developing plans and profitable ideas. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Observation will be necessary, and impulses will lead to poor decisions. Try not to reveal your motives until you have secured your position. A partnership with someone unique will turn out to be a prosperous and winning combination. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your energy to good use. Make positive changes at home and discuss plans with someone you love to help your relationship flourish. Working as a team player will result in a healthy atmosphere at home and at work. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen carefully before you give in to someone trying to push or pressure you. Don't be tempted to spend on a gimmick that promises the impossible. Stick close to home and to people you can trust. Romance is highlighted. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and creative. You are insightful, caring and helpful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

3/12

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CRONUTS

Solution: 6 letters

NGCRAEPIICERINGM

OOREYREKABMTEAO

MOETDESSERTIPNS

ADATDECFIGTLLAS

NOTUNOHROPETLCO

NNIBCAMSAONHYHL

IUOOUFSIIZDGCBE

CTNDLFLSNNEIHAY

GUROIELAIRLETR

TGUENRSAKOQAEESR

SRUYALBNVYRUGAE

UEZERTSYAOTCEEH

GTAVYRFEHCRRYYC

AALOSALTEEWSAGE

RWGLIODEESEEPARG

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5/13

Ansel, Bakery, Butter, Chef, Cherry Blossom, Cinnamon, Coconut, Craze, Creation, Croissant, Culinary, Dessert, Dominique, Donut, Egg, Fig, Flaky, Flavors, Flour, Foodies, Fry, Ganache, Garnished, Glaze, Good, Grapeseed Oil, Hybrid, Layers, Light, Lime, Love, Lychee, Maple, Pear, Recipe, Ring, Sage, Salt, Sugar, Sweet, Tea, Tender, Treat, Water, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Misbehaving

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 can be purchased or in at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NFL suspends Brady 4 games for deflated footballs



NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL came down hard on its biggest star and its championship team, telling Tom Brady and the Patriots that no one is allowed to mess with the rules of the game.

The league suspended the Super Bowl MVP Monday for the first four games of the season, fined the New England Patriots \$1 million and took away two draft picks as punishment for deflating footballs used in the AFC title game.

"Each player, no matter how accomplished and otherwise respected, has an obligation to comply with the rules and must be held accountable for his actions when those rules are violated and the public's confidence in the game is called into question," NFL executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent wrote to Brady.

The Patriots lose next year's first-round pick and a fourth-round choice in 2017.

Brady would miss the season's showcase kickoff game on Sept. 10 against Pittsburgh, then Week 2 at Buffalo, a home game against Jacksonville and a game at Dallas. He will return the week of a Patriots-Colts AFC championship rematch in Indianapolis.

He would be replaced by Jimmy Garoppolo, a 2014 second-round selection from Eastern Illinois who won the Walter Payton award as the best player in the FCS. He has thrown 27 NFL passes, including one touchdown.

Brady has three days to appeal the suspension to Commissioner Roger Goodell or his designee. His agent, Don Yee, said "the discipline is ridiculous and has no legitimate basis" and that Brady will appeal.

"And if the hearing officer is completely independent and neutral, I am very confident the Wells Report will be exposed as an incredibly frail exercise in fact-finding and logic," Yee said in a statement.

The Patriots said in a statement they thought the punishment was too severe.

"Despite our conviction that there was no tampering with footballs, it was our intention to accept any discipline levied by the league," the statement said.

"Today's punishment, however, far exceeded any reasonable expectation. It was based completely on circumstantial rather than hard or conclusive evidence.

"Tom Brady has our unconditional support. Our belief in him has not wavered."

On Monday, the Patriots also postponed this week's previously scheduled media availability with their rookie draft class.

The league also indefinitely suspended the two equipment staffers believed to have carried out the plan, including one who



AP
In a Feb. 1, 2015, file photo New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in NFL Super Bowl XLIX in Glendale, Ariz.

called himself "The Deflator."

Vincent wrote letters to the team and Brady saying a league-sponsored investigative report established "substantial and credible evidence" that the quarterback knew the employees were deflating footballs and failed to cooperate with investigators.

The investigation by attorney Ted Wells found that Brady "was at least generally aware" of plans by two Patriots employees to prepare the balls to his liking, below the league-mandated minimum of 12.5 pounds per square inch.

The Patriots defeated the Indianapolis Colts 45-7 and went on to beat the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl.

The fine matches the largest the NFL has handed out, to Ed DeBartolo Jr., then the San Francisco 49ers' owner, who pleaded guilty to a felony in his role in a Louisiana gambling scandal in 1999.

Vincent told the Patriots the punishment was handed out regardless of whether the flatter footballs—which can be easier to grip and catch—affected the outcome of the blowout win over the Colts. Vincent said the flattening of balls probably began much earlier.

"While we cannot be certain when the activity began, the evidence suggests that January 18th was not the first and only occasion when this occurred, particularly in light of the evidence referring to deflation of footballs going back to before the beginning of the 2014 season," he wrote.

"It is impossible to determine whether this activity had an effect on the outcome of games or what that effect was."

It's the second time in eight

years the Patriots have been punished for violating league rules. In 2007, the team was fined \$500,000 and docked a first-round draft pick, and coach Bill Belichick was fined \$250,000 for videotaping opposing coaches as a way to decipher their play signals.

In his 243-page report re-

leased by the league last week, Wells found that the team broke the rules again, this time by deflating the game footballs after they had been checked by officials. Although the report did not conclusively link the four-time Super Bowl champion to the illegal activity, text messages between the equipment staff-

ers indicated that Brady knew it was going on. Investigators said Brady's explanation for the messages was implausible.

"It is unlikely that an equipment assistant and a locker room attendant would deflate game balls without Brady's knowledge and approval," the report said.

The NFL allows each team to provide the footballs used by its offense—a procedure Brady played a role in creating—but it requires them to be inflated in that range of 12.5-13.5 pounds per square inch. Footballs with less pressure can be easier to grip and catch, and Brady has expressed a preference for the lower end of the range.

Brady said last week that the scandal hasn't taken away from the team's 28-24 Super Bowl win over Seattle—its fourth NFL title since the 2001 season.

"Absolutely not," he said at a previously planned appearance in Salem, Massachusetts, last Thursday night. "We earned everything we got and achieved as a team, and I am proud of that and so are our fans."

Fans chanted "Brady" and "MVP," then gave him a standing ovation as he entered the arena in the town made famous by the colonial witch trials. Since the airing of the scandal in the hours after the Colts game, New England fans have been unwavering in their support for the team, blaming the investigation on grudges by opponents jealous of the team's success.

Teague leads Hawks past Wizards 106-101 to tie series



WASHINGTON (AP)—Suddenly, the Atlanta Hawks went from so-so in the playoffs to looking a bit more like a No. 1 seed.

"That's how we play. That's how we've been playing all year," forward Paul Millsap said. "Things we didn't do, pretty much all series, we did tonight."

Jeff Teague scored 26 points, Millsap added 19 points, six assists and five rebounds, and Al Horford had 18 points and 10 rebounds as three of Atlanta's four All-Stars played significant roles to help the Hawks beat the Washington Wizards 106-101 on Monday night and evened their second-round series at two games apiece.

Washington's lone All-Star, point guard John Wall, missed a third consecutive game with a broken left hand.

Game 5 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night at Atlanta.

"To me, personally, I think this is the best we've played all series," said Millsap, who had eight points in Game 3, when he was dropped from the starting lineup because of flu-like symptoms. "Thirty assists, the way we played defense, the

way we stepped up, the way we helped each other, the way we moved the basketball, the way we set screens."

Is that all, Paul?

"That was midseason form right there," agreed Kyle Korver, Atlanta's fourth All-Star, who was limited to four shots and six points, but all of the attention Washington paid to slowing him opened room for other Hawks. "I thought we played with just a lot of juice, and a lot of energy, and a lot of purpose."

Still, this one wound up being tight toward the end.

Two days after hitting a buzzer-beater to win Game 3, Washington's Paul Pierce missed a 3-point attempt that would have tied the score coming out of a timeout with 9.5 seconds left.

"Thought I got a great look," Pierce said.

Said Bradley Beal, who scored a career playoff-high 34 points for the Wizards: "I thought it was going in. ... That open one's always the hardest one to make."

Warriors 101, Grizzlies 84

In Memphis, Tenn., Steve Kerr challenged his Golden State Warriors to ratchet up the inten-

sity to playoff-level. With MVP Stephen Curry leading the way, they responded and looked like the team that cruised through the regular season.

Curry scored 21 of his 33 points by halftime, and the Warriors snapped their two-game skid Monday night by routing the Memphis Grizzlies 101-84 to tie the Western Conference semifinals at 2-2.

"Tonight we took a step towards understanding that sense of urgency and kind of competitiveness and physicality to the game," Kerr said. "It was probably our most competitive effort, definitely of the series, but probably of the playoffs just in terms of understanding you got to play every second."

The Warriors hadn't lost three straight games all season, and they never came close as they took back home-court advantage. Curry hadn't scored more than 23 points in a game in this series, and he nearly had that by halftime.

Draymond Green had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors while Klay Thompson had 15 points, Harrison Barnes 12 and Andre Iguodala 11.

"We set the tone the first quarter and kept the foot on the gas pedal the whole way, and that's how we play,"

Curry said.

Marc Gasol had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis while Zach Randolph had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Mike Conley finished with 10 points and seven assists but was 4 of 15 from the field. Memphis pulled its starters with 3:00 left.

Game 5 is Wednesday night at Golden State.

"This series could have been close to over if we hadn't come out like we were supposed to tonight," Warriors center Andrew Bogut said. "You know it's never over until the end, but being down 3-1 going home is a pretty tough task, so 2-2 right now in a three-game series and we like our chances."

Memphis coach Dave Joerger had given his Grizzlies a history lesson reminding them of previous blown 2-1 leads in the postseason. It didn't help as the Grizzlies lost their fourth straight Game 4, the third of those on their own court. They just didn't play with the same defensive intensity as the last two games.

"We lost our composure early in the first half, especially in the first quarter," Joerger said. "We needed to keep that closer in the first quarter. We had a chance there. Our offense really struggled tonight, and it put our defense in a bad way."

Orioles hit 3 HRs in return home, beat Blue Jays 5-2



BALTIMORE
(AP)—Man-
ny Machado

and Chris Davis hit first-inning homers, and Ubaldo Jimenez had a season-high nine strikeouts over seven sharp innings as the Orioles celebrated their return to Baltimore with a 5-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday night.

Adam Jones also homered for the Orioles, who had lost five of six to fall into last place in the AL East.

Because of rioting and violence in the city, the Orioles last played in front of their home fans on April 26. Enjoying the comfort of familiar surroundings and fueled by a spirited crowd of 20,468, Baltimore took a quick 3-0 lead and cruised to the finish behind Jimenez (3-2).

In their previous game at Camden Yards, the Orioles won on April 29 behind closed doors, a decision made for fan safety. Although the atmosphere in the city remains tense, the fans appeared delighted to turn their attention toward baseball.

Wearing "Baltimore" on their home white jerseys instead of the customary "Orioles," the home team provided many a feel-good moment.

Zach Britton got three outs for his seventh save.

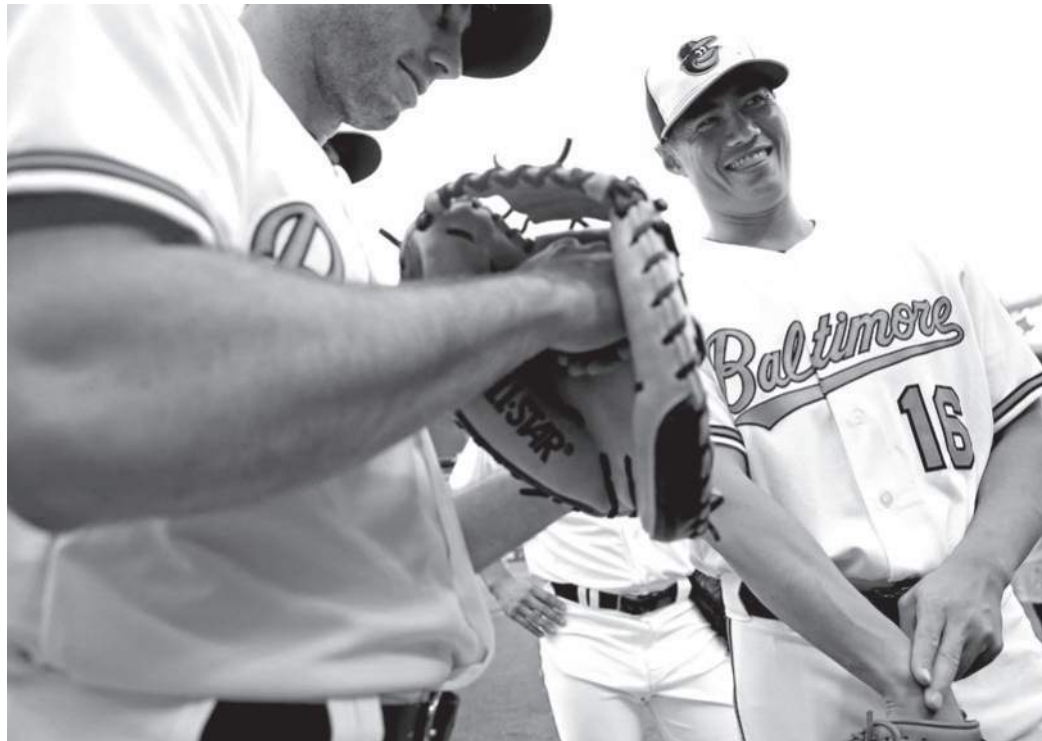
Marco Estrada (1-2) took the loss.

Yankees 11, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, CC Sabathia won for the first time in more than a year as Alex Rodriguez hit one of five New York homers against Tampa Bay.

Sabathia (1-5) allowed four runs in seven innings to stop a nine-start winless streak since a victory over Boston on April 24, 2014. The lefty missed most of last season with a knee injury.

Rodriguez put the Yankees



Baltimore Orioles pitcher Wei-Yin Chen, right, of Taiwan, stands on the field alongside teammate Miguel Gonzalez before a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Monday, May 11, 2015, in Baltimore.

up 1-0 on his eighth homer this season and 662nd overall, a long drive to left field in the first.

A-Rod was hit on the arm by Erasmo Ramirez's pitch in the ninth and scored when Mark Teixeira hit a two-run homer. Chase Headley, Carlos Beltran and Brett Gardner also homered for the Yankees, who have won all four games this season at Tropicana Field and are 6-1 overall against the Rays.

Dodgers 5, Marlins 3

In Los Angeles, Scott Van Slyke hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Los Angeles a victory over Miami.

Two innings after throwing out a runner at home plate to complete a double play, Van Slyke connected off struggling closer Steve Cishek.

Christian Yelich gave the Marlins a 3-2 lead in the top of the ninth with a two-run homer

off rookie Yimi Garcia before Cishek (1-3) allowed a one-out walk to Yasmani Grandal and a single by Andre Ethier.

Van Slyke handed Cishek his fourth blown save in seven opportunities.

Red Sox 5, Athletics 4, 11 innings

In Oakland, California, Pablo Sandoval homered leading off the 11th inning for Boston in his return to the Bay Area, where he won three championships with the San Francisco Giants.

Sandoval just cleared the fence in right on an 0-2 pitch from Angel Castro (0-1) for his fourth homer of the year and second in two days, helping the Red Sox win consecutive games for the first time since April 20-21.

Matt Barnes (1-0) pitched two innings for the win.

Oakland lost its sixth straight and fell to a major league-worst 0-6 in extra innings this season. The A's are 1-11 in one-run

games. They have their longest skid since dropping nine in a row in 2012.

Sandoval received his latest World Series ring from Giants manager Bruce Bochy on Sunday night at the Red Sox team hotel.

Pirates 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Gerrit Cole pitched seven effective innings and Starling Marte hit a three-run homer as Pittsburgh beat Philadelphia.

Cole (5-1) allowed two runs and six hits, shaking off his first loss in 10 starts with another good outing. The right-hander had won four straight before Wednesday's 3-0 home loss to Cincinnati.

Making his first start at hitter-friendly Citizens Bank Park, Cole improved 5-0 with a 2.36 ERA in his last seven road outings. The Pirates have won four of five overall, and seven of eight against the Phillies dating to last season.

Brewers 10, White Sox 7

In Milwaukee, Elian Herrera and pinch-hitter Khris Davis homered in the eighth inning to help Milwaukee hold off Chicago.

Herrera, filling in at third base for injured Aramis Ramirez, homered for the second straight night. His two-run shot off reliever Zach Duke (1-2) broke a 7-all tie.

The Brewers squandered a 6-0 lead. Adam Eaton's two-out RBI single off Jonathan Broxton (1-0) tied the score at 7 in the eighth inning.

Francisco Rodriguez earned his seventh save.

Rangers 8, Royals 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre hit his 399th home run and newcomer Thomas Field hit his first as the Texas Rangers beat weary Kansas City.

Prince Fielder also homered for the Rangers to back Colby Lewis (3-2), who beat the Royals for the first time since 2003 by limiting them to one run and three hits over seven innings.

The defending AL champions didn't arrive in Texas until about 5:45 a.m. Monday after their 10-inning, rain-delayed victory at Detroit that ended after midnight.

Danny Duffy (2-2), who traveled ahead of his teammates, matched his career high with six walks while pitching only 3 2-3 innings. He gave up six runs and five hits.

Cubs 4, Mets 3

In Chicago, Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo homered on consecutive pitches in the first inning, leading Jon Lester and Chicago over New York.

Lester (3-2) allowed three runs in six innings, and three relievers from Chicago's struggling bullpen closed it out. Hector Rondon finished for his seventh save.

The Cubs opened the bleach-

ers in left and center for the first time this season at Wrigley Field, and Bryant provided a stirring welcome with a two-run shot for the prized rookie's first homer at the cozy neighborhood ballpark.

Rizzo followed with a drive to right against Jacob deGrom (3-4), who was charged with four runs in five innings.

Braves 2, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, pinch-hitter Phil Gosselin singled off Aroldis Chapman to open the ninth, stole a base and scored on the closer's wild pitch, rallying Atlanta past Cincinnati.

The Braves snapped a three-game losing streak and sent Cincinnati's best reliever to his second loss in two days.

Chapman (1-2) also gave up a ninth-inning run during a 4-3 loss to the White Sox on Sunday — the first run he had allowed all season.

Luis Avilan (1-0) retired all three batters in the eighth. Jim Johnson got his second save.

Nationals 11, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Denard Span and Ryan Zimmerman homered in the first inning as Washington rolled to its fifth victory in a row with a rout of Arizona.

The Nationals scored 10 runs in the first two innings, nine off starter Josh Collmenter (3-4). Yunel Escobar had his second career five-hit game, both in the past week.

Max Scherzer (3-3) shut out the Diamondbacks before giving up a home run to Jordan Pacheco in the sixth. The former Arizona first-round draft pick allowed five hits in seven innings. He struck out six and even had two of the Nationals' 15 hits.

Washington has scored a combined two runs in Scherzer's three losses, and 25 in his three wins.

Rickie Fowler delivers major performance to win Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—After a record-setting finish and captivating victory at The Players Championship, Rickie Fowler could have thanked a number of people.

His mom. His sister. His girlfriend. His caddie. His friends. His fans.

He went in a different direction.

"Big thanks to 17," he said. "It was a big help this week."

Indeed, the famed island green at TPC Sawgrass was Fowler's biggest ally. Fowler played the treacherous hole six times and walked away with five birdies, including three in three attempts in the final round.

And when he faced that daunting shot for the last time Sunday, he was as good as ever.

Overrated? More like overdue.

Facing a five-shot deficit with six holes to play, Fowler produced the greatest finish in the tournament's 34-year history at Sawgrass. In a three-man playoff on three of the most visually intimidating holes in golf, he never backed down.

He notched his second PGA Tour victory and probably put to rest all that talk about an anonymous survey that questioned his ability to win.

"I laughed at the poll," he said. "But yeah, if there was any question, I think this right here answers anything you need to know."

Fowler closed out his final round with a birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie finish for a 5-under 67.

That got him in a playoff with Sergio Garcia and Kevin Kisner, who produced big shots of their own.

For the first time, The Players went to a three-hole aggregate playoff starting on the par-5 16th, where earlier Fowler hit a 3-wood into the breeze to 30 inches for an eagle that made this moment possible.

They all made pars on the 16th.

Kisner rolled in a breaking 10-foot birdie putt on the island-green 17th to keep pace with Fowler, who hit his tee shot to 6 feet and converted the birdie. Garcia, who in regulation made a 45-foot birdie to give him new life, failed to repeat the putt from about the same range in the playoff. All three players made par on the final hole, which eliminated Garcia.

Fowler and Kisner, who

closed with a 69 and lost for the second time in a month in a playoff, headed back to the 17th hole for the third time. The great shots kept coming. Kisner barely cleared the mound and the ball settled 12 feet away. Fowler answered by taking on the right side of the green and sticking it just inside 5 feet.

Kisner finally missed.

It was the second time in a month that Kisner, winless in 102 starts, lost in a playoff despite making clutch putts.

"Golf is a hard and cruel game," Kisner said. "But hats off. I mean, shoot, these guys are good, I'm telling you. Don't give up on anybody."

Fowler never seemed to miss over the final two hours, and he calmly clutched his fist to celebrate his first tour victory in three years.

"I've been waiting a long time

for this," Fowler said. "Back in the winner's circle."

Garcia, who had a two-shot lead heading to the back nine, closed with a 68. He had a 20-foot birdie putt to win in regulation that missed badly to the right. And he faced a crowd that was increasingly hostile to the Spaniard, perhaps remembering the tiff he had with Tiger Woods two years ago.

His caddie was asking for security when he made the turn. In the three-hole playoff, a small group of fans yelled, "U-S-A!" as he took the putter back.

It marred what was other sheer brilliance, a most unforgettable final hour in a tournament that has a history of them.

For Fowler, the timing couldn't have been better.

One of the questions in SI Golf's annual player survey - players do not give their names - was to pick the most overrated player on the PGA Tour. Fowler

and Ian Poulter shared first place at 24 percent. Fowler has never faced this level of criticism. He is a favorite among fans and most players for his considerate behavior.

"I don't know if you can get too caught up in that whole deal," Kisner said. "I really don't know that whole story, but I heard the remnants of it this weekend. Obviously he's not overrated. The guy finished—what did he finish? Top five in all four majors last year? Anybody that can do that, as you can see, if you're in that position, you're playing pretty danged well."

"What is he supposed to be rated? What's the threshold here on who calls what's overrated? I wouldn't get too worried about that. But I'm sure he was fired up to get that—whoever said that - off his shoulder."

Maybe that's who Fowler should have thanked.

THE PLAYERS

Camacho solidifies All-Star inclusion

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vicente A. Camacho II collected a number of individual awards to strengthen his case to be included in the Majors division Saipan All-Star team that will be competing against Rota in the CNMI district tournament to be hosted by the island down south from June 18 to 20.

The Saipan Little League board along with managers and coaches of the 12 participating teams were still meeting at press time at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room for the selection of the Saipan All-Star team.

Camacho, of pennant champs Natibu Sports Association Braves, clinched the batting crown after a league-best .756 average and had the most number of RBIs with 29.

He then added the pitching titles, ERA (0.24) and strikeouts (47), to earn the regular season most valuable player honors.

Josenio Alvarez, Joell Q. Borja, Andre B. Camacho, Heath Quinten Q. Camacho, Anthony Edward J. Dison, Victor Joel S. Igitol, Aiyon Jovone P. Johnson, Steven C. Kileleman, Ignacio K. Santos, George N. Camacho, Musky Bosel, Isaac Aguon, Vicente A. Camacho I, and Jose P. Taitano were the other Braves players.

Zachary Camacho was named the finals MVP after a solid pitching job in the Bank of Saipan Red

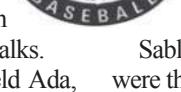


Vicente Camacho II of the Natibu Sports Association Braves won the batting and pitching crowns after the regular season in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League.

Sox's 10-4 win over the Braves in the championship match. He tossed two innings in relief where he limited the Braves to one hit on two unearned runs with five strikeouts and two walks.

Anton Aguon, Winfield Ada,

Kiana Alda, Devon Pangelinan, Joven Reyes, Shane Mal-lens, Orren Cruz, Kody Foreman, David Quitu-gua, Rita Agulto, Alexi-ana Tyquengco, Jesus Sablan, and Marty Taisacan were the other Red Sox players.



NMA postpones All-schools track meet

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics officials have decided to postpone this weekend's 2015 Public School System/McDonald's All-Schools Athletics Championship due to Tropical Storm Dolphin.

The All-Schools meet was set to open tomorrow, May 14, at the Oleai Sports Complex and was then supposed to shift to the Hopwood Junior High School Field on Friday and Saturday.

Storm Dolphin was still 900 miles east-southeast of Saipan located at Fananu village in

Chuuk State as of 4pm yesterday, but is expected to hit Saipan in the next 48 hours.

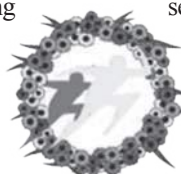
Dolphin is packing maximum sustained winds of 50 miles per hour and is currently drifting west towards Saipan. Dolphin is expected to have damaging winds from 39 to 73 mph by Friday.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said this was the main reason behind the cancellation of the annual track meet, where close to 400 kids are expected to join

in the three-day finals.

"We don't want to risk the safety of the kids. We already sent an email to the teachers and coaches that we're postponing Thursday's opening. We'll keep them posted when are we going to reschedule it," Sapong told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview.

"The NMA board doesn't want to make a last-minute decision. We don't want to push through with the opening on Thursday then cancel it the



Northern Marianas Athletics

MATANSA

From Page 28

Meanwhile, Wild Bill's defeated Paire, 3-1, in the final Division 1 game last Sunday.

Evan Belcher, Jack Thoensaket, and Tanapon Unsa bagged one goal apiece for Wild Bill's, which wrapped up the season with a second-best 8-0-2 record behind division champion Tan Holdings FC (9-0-1).

Paire, which got its lone goal from Ajani Burell, placed fourth in the six-team field with its 3-1-6 slate behind MP United (4-2-4) and ahead of Inter Godfather's (2-2-6) and Korean Football Association Saipan (0-1-9).

CNMI

From Page 28

In the upper half of the draw, Tania Tan and Carol Lee were pitted against another Japanese duo in Takako Aikawa and Sakura Hosogi and the CNMI bets also got the boot after only two sets, 1-6, 1-6.

The doubles match yesterday was Tan's second straight in Day 2 of the Junior ITF event, as she earlier played in the singles division against Chinese-Taipei's Ling Hsuan Wei. The wild card entry shut down Tan in the opening set, 6-0, before the latter played better in the second, but still lost, 2-6.

With Tan dropping her opener

in the singles and the two CNMI doubles teams also faltering in yesterday's games, only Lee will continue to play in the Guam-hosted tournament. Lee made it past the first round after ousting Japan's Haruna Tsuzuki last Monday, 6-2, 6-4.

Up next for Lee is the seventh-seeded Yurie Takanishi of Japan. Takanishi, who won last year's IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships against compatriot Nanaka Takeuchi, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, will test Lee's mettle in the 8:30pm game today at Court 2. If Lee manages to pull off an upset against her seeded opponent, the CNMI junior player will earn the right to face either Palau's Ayana Ren-

The Taalabwogh Little Falcons' Aven Manny L. Evangelista scored the most runs this season with 33, while Pangelinan of champions Bank of Saipan Red Sox tallied the most doubles with nine and the Kagboys' Justin Peter C. Celis recorded the same number in the triples category.

Tarrence Christian Babauta of the Little Padres blasted the most number of home runs the entire regular season with eight. He belted the season's first homer in the Padres' 13-3 rout of the Jets last Feb. 16.

He then had a three-game streak of hitting a four-bagger in the Padres' next three games highlighted by three round-trippers in a 26-5 crushing of the As Matuis Twins on March 3.

The Braves bagged the pennant after finishing the regular season with an 11-1 won-loss record and easily breezed through the playoffs to earn a finals berth. Their title bid, however, ended with that setback to the Red Sox last week.

The Little Falcons, who ended up tied with the Red Sox with similar 10-2 slates, earned the pennant runner-up trophy after the tiebreak. They also copped the third place trophy after beating the Ol'Aces in their consolation match last Saturday.

The Red Sox finished third after the regular season while the Comets ended up fourth.

following day when it starts to rain," Sapong added.

The All-Schools meet was supposed to open at 5pm tomorrow with the boys and girls long jump in all age divisions and the softball throw in the Under-8, U10, and U12 age groups.

The opening ceremonies was set at 6pm to be followed by the 60m sprints in both divisions of all age groups, and the javelin and shotput throwing events in the boys and girl' U14 and U18 categories at 6:30pm.

The 100m dash in all ages in both the boy and girls divisions, and the discus throw for U14 and U18 boy' and girls end the day's competition at 7:30pm.

giil or Japan's Ayu Sugiyama in the quarterfinals.

Lee is in the upper half of the 32-player draw and is joined by top-ranked Satoko Sueno, Singapore's Ashley Kei Yim, Aikawa, and Taipei's Ting-Chieh Wei in the second round. In the bottom half, the second round qualifiers are Japan's Runa Ichinose, Sakura Hondo, Sakura Hosogi, Higashitani, Yukiho Uragami, and the second-seeded Ayumi Hirata, and Chinese-Taipei's Ling Hsuan Wei.

The Junior ITF tournament in Guam is scheduled to wrap up this Saturday and majority of the players there will head to Saipan, which will host another Grade 5 event from May 19 to 24.

Thursday, Tuesday leaders not safe on top

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A catch-me-if-you-can scenario remains in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday and Tuesday leagues as Wild Bill's and the Jokers IT&E Voyagers could still dislodge the leaders of their respective divisions.

Wild Bill's has four more weeks, including tomorrow's games, to make its move of foiling current leaders Route 33 Alamo Car Rental's title bid while the Voyagers (119-91) must rack up more wins and hope that the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers (122-88) would start losing as both leagues enter the home-stretch.

Route 33 remains on top in the Thursday League with a 126-84 won-loss record followed closely behind by Wild Bill's' 118-92 mark, while the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll and the Jokers Homeboyz are tied from third to fourth (114-96).

The Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball (112-98) remain a long shot for the division crown since they are 14 games behind leaders Route 33, but could still contend for a podium finish depending on the outcome of their and opponents' games.

The Magic 8-Ball failed to gain some ground last week despite a 13-2 win over the Barcode Breakers (64-146),

while Route 33 continued to hold the top spot following a 10-5 victory against the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot (100-110).

Wild Bill's could have closed the gap further with Route 33, but was held to an 8-7 decision by Jokers Hombeoyz, while the Jokers Wonderpool Aces (106-104) and the Abyss Titans (108-102) had the same scoreline against Jonny's Teams SCS (88-122) and the Rack 'N' Roll.

It was an unusual result in the Tuesday league as all three matches played ended up with a 10-5 result.

The Hustlers, who are just three games ahead of the Voyagers, defeated their closest pursuers while the Jokers STR8 Shooters (100-110) beat the cellar-dwelling Abyss Homeboyz II (81-129) and the Abyss Crazy 8 (107-103) downed the Smoke Pub Ali'i Destroyers.

Tuesday League games between the STR8 Shooters and the Destroyers, the Hustlers and the Homeboyz II, and the Crazy 8 and the Voyagers were still being played at press time.

In the Thursday League, the Titans visit the Breakers while the Wonderpool Aces host the Magic 8-Ball. The Homeboyz clash with the Rack 'N' Roll, the Deashot take on Team SCS, while Route 33 battle Wild Bill's tomorrow.

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goals for Auto Motion, while Tony Luzama, Peter Camacho, and Renguul scored for the Old'Aces.

Renguul also nailed the equalizer in regulation after Elias Rangamar canned a crucial triple and kept the Old'Aces in the game after trailing by 5, 89-94, down to the last 46 seconds of the fourth quarter.

The Old'Aces had to rally in the closing minute of the fourth canto after it lost a shaky 2-point lead, 89-87, with Sison hitting 5 straight points and Guiang adding a field goal for Auto Motion. The Old'Aces then had a chance to win the match in regulation as it had the last possession, however Jessie's Stole's long heave just past midcourt in front of the table officials was nullified. The Hail Mary shot went it, but referees ruled the ball was still on Stoll's hands when the buzzer sounded.

Auto Motion managed to steal the win from the Old'Aces despite trailing by double digits in the first half, 48-37. Sison and Guiang brought Auto Motion back into the game in the third quarter, as the former fired three triples and the latter added 7 points to cut the deficit to 2,

65-67. The match remained close in the fourth quarter and the opposing teams ended up needing extra five minutes to decide the winner of the game.

Meanwhile, league organizers have announced the format for the Masters and U20 division playoffs. The Top 2 finishers in the Masters category will get byes in the first round, while the bottom four will battle for the two remaining semis berths. In the Final Four, the pairings will be No. 1 vs. No. 4 and No. 2 vs. No. 3 and rankings will be determined via draw lots.

For the U20 division, the top finisher will receive a bye, while the four remaining squads will play in the first round. Winners of the first round matches will join the top finisher in the semis, while losers will duel for the last Final Four seat. In the semis, a draw will also take place to determine the positions of the four remaining squads.

Auto Motion 104 – Sison 28, Guiang 19, Galulu 18, Usi 17, Viola 7, Montes 7, Mateo 6, Vil-lanueva 2.

Old'Aces 100 – Renguul 18, Camacho 18, Rangamar 18, Diaz 16, Manabat 10, Luzama 8.

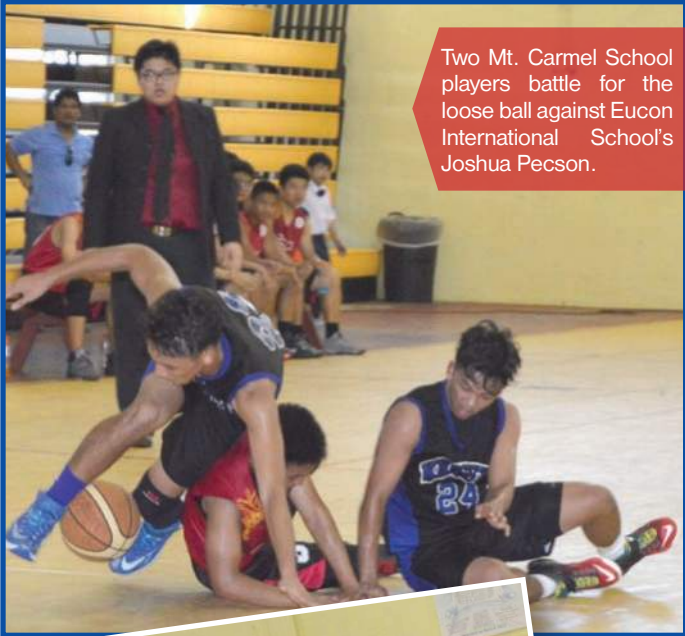
Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 37-48, 65-67, 94-94, 104-100 (OT).

COPSSA Boys High Schools Basketball League Finals

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Eucon International School's Zion Alamer, left, reacts, after getting fouled by Mt. Carmel School's Anthony Deleon Guerrero during their title match in the boys high school division of the 2014-2015 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Two Mt. Carmel School players battle for the loose ball against Eucon International School's Joshua Pecson.



Two Eucon International School defenders hound Mt. Carmel School's William Camacho.



Mt. Carmel School's William Camacho throws the ball back to the court as he runs out of space, while Eucon International School's Allen Yu stays close on defense.



Mt. Carmel School's Jose Castro drives against Eucon International School's Peter Wang.



Mt. Carmel School's Anthony Deleon Guerrero pulls up for a shot against Eucon International School's Sean Ding.



Eucon International School's Allen Yu unloads a running shot against two Mt. Carmel School defenders.



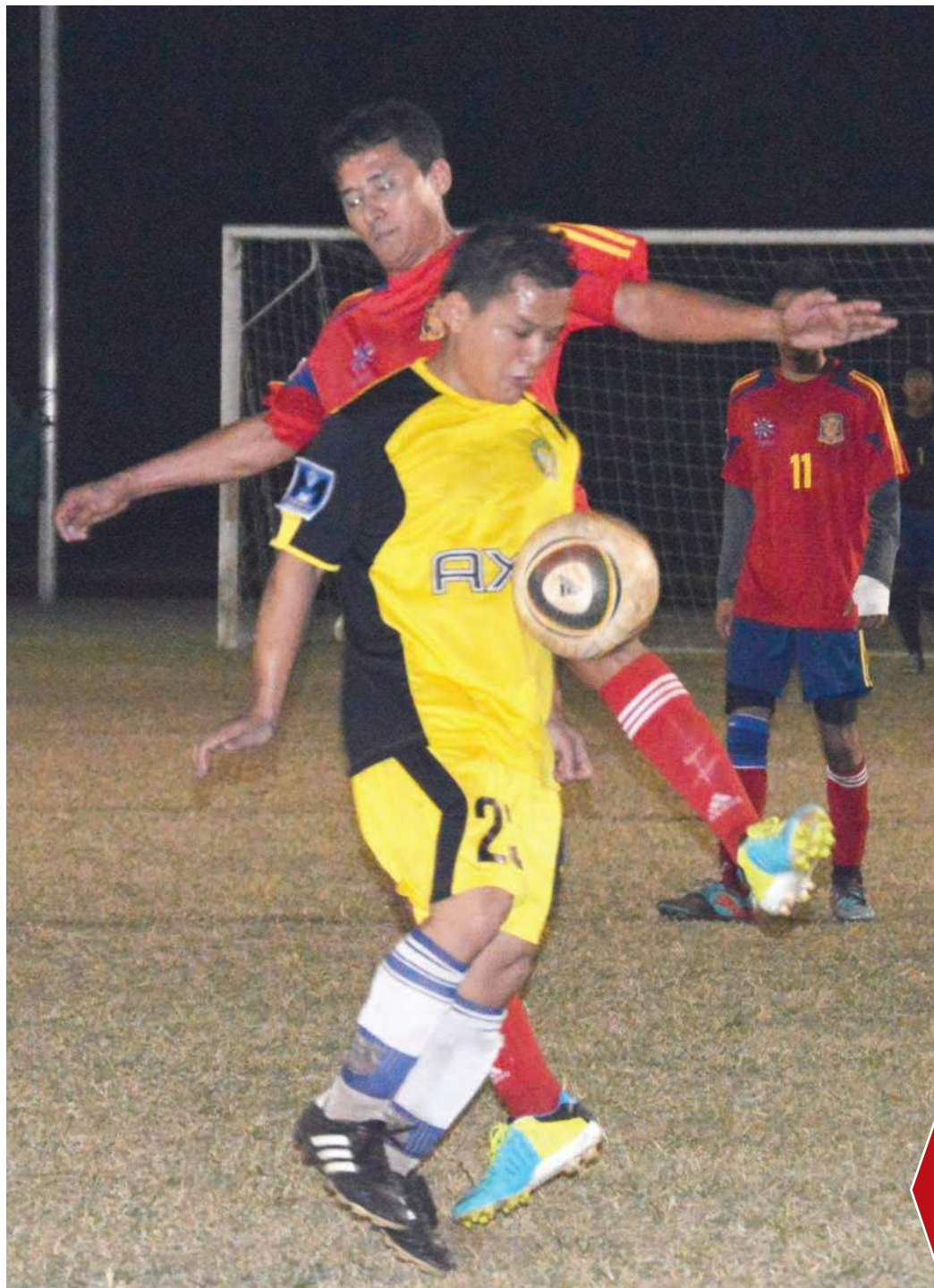
Mt. Carmel School's Jonah Hahn, left, beats Eucon International School's Sean Ding in the rebound play.



Mt. Carmel School's A.J. Evangelista dribbles the ball away from the defense of Eucon International School's Joshua Pecson.



Matansa rules Division 2 of M-League



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club took the Division 2 spring championship in the M-League.

The club secured the season title as early as last Wednesday after routing Kanoa FC, 6-1, at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Ahmed Titu led Matansa's championship-clinching victory, scoring a pair of goals in the one-sided game. Titu logged his first goal in the opening half after Young Hi Hwang put Matansa on the board for the team's 2-0 halftime lead. The eventual champion's third goal came off Kanoa's miscue, while Shahnewaz Luvlu handed the squad its fourth. T.J. Gurung and Titu then canned the last two goals for Matansa, while Kanoa avoided a shutout, thanks to Davy Laxa's shot.

With Matansa whipping Kanoa in the penultimate playing day of the division, the former finished the double-round robin season with an 8-2-2 win-draw-loss record and 26 points, just 2 more than runner-up Sun Palace.

Sun Palace played in the final game of the spring season last Sunday and cruised to a 7-1 victory over the CNMI Women's National Team.

Jun Sik Kim starred in the easy win with his hat-trick,



while Feng Chun Jin added two goals, and Heng Guo Piao and Jihu Jin contributed one each. Sun Palace went on to cap the season with a 7-3-2 slate and 24 points.

World Resort and Kanoa earned 19 apiece, but the former won the tiebreak for third due to the goal difference, 9-0. World Resort finished the season with a 5-4-3 record, while Kanoa owned a 6-1-5 mark. The Thundercats (4-3-5), Shirley's FC (4-3-5), and the CNMI Women's National Team (0-0-12) rounded out the field.

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CNMI jr. players fall in doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's doubles players in the Calvo's Selectcare ITF Junior Championships 2015 were shown the exit door early.

The pair of Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy was the first to be eliminated after bowing to the fourth-seeded tandem of Nagomi Higashitani and Ayu Sugiyama of Japan, 6-1, 6-2,

yesterday on Court 1 of the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Hagatna, Guam.

Lopez and Rastguiy, who also failed to survive the opening round of the same contest of the same tournament, were in the lower half of the 16-team doubles draw, joining their tormentors and five other teams.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

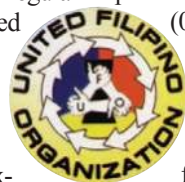
Negahr Rastguiy, seen here going for a backhand return in a local tournament this year, teamed up with Mikayla Lopez and played in the doubles event in the Calvo's Selectcare ITF Junior Championships 2015 yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Hagatna, Guam.

Auto Motion outlasts Old'Aces in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Auto Motion had enough gas left to slip past the Old'Aces in overtime, 104-100, during the penultimate Masters division regular season game in 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The close win in the extension period gave Auto Motion a 3-2 record and the temporary



No. 2 spot in the team standings behind the unbeaten Blue Haus (5-0). The Old'Aces dropped to a 1-3 slate and will close out the round-robin regular season today when it faces Armatech (2-2). LBT Appraisal (3-2) and Graphics/Star 6 (0-5) complete the field.

Auto Motion lost a 5-point lead with less than minute of the regulation before drawing baskets from five different players in overtime to eke out the 4-point victory. Mico Usi nailed the go-ahead shot for Auto Motion off a feed from Marlon Sison, while Robert Guiang drilled the insurance in the closing seconds. Andy Viola, Noel Mateo, and Joseph Galulu knocked in the three other field

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Auto Motion's Marlon Sison, seen here pulling up for a jumper against three Blue Haus defenders, scored 28 points in their 104-100 overtime win versus the Old'Aces in the Masters division match of the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



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